

**Instruction****Curriculum****Talent Development (Gifted and Talented) Program**

The Watertown Unified School District is committed to providing an appropriate education to all students. We recognize the importance of providing an appropriate, rigorous and relevant education for students who are identified as gifted and talented in accordance with Board policy and Wisconsin state law. Therefore, the District will use a comprehensive identification process matched with systematic and continuous programming to meet the learning needs of our gifted and talented students.

Students in grades K-12, who demonstrate or show the potential to demonstrate high performance capability in intellectual, creative, artistic, leadership or specific academic areas will be identified for talent development programming. The District uses multiple criteria to identify students for programming which includes, but is not limited to assessment data, parent and teacher inventories, and student work samples.

It is the philosophy of the District that most gifted and talented students' needs can be met in the regular classroom with teaching strategies and differentiated instruction. Classroom instructional practice should recognize and support students with identified giftedness. In addition, the District has an obligation to provide opportunities for gifted/talented students to exhibit and develop their abilities in programs outside of the regular classroom.

The District is dedicated to providing programming that is appropriate, rigorous and relevant to the needs of the gifted and talented students. We recognize the importance of curricular modification for gifted and talented students which may be within or outside the established curriculum. Planning for students is completed in collaboration with parents, educators, and students. The administration will determine specific guidelines and criteria for the implementation and regulation of the Talent Development program in conjunction with state guidelines and national standards for gifted education.

**Legal Reference:**                   **118.35 - Wisconsin State Statute**  
  **118.35(1) – Wisconsin State Statute**  
  **118.35(3) – Wisconsin State Statute**  
  **PI 121.02(1)(t) – Wisconsin Administrative Code**

**Policy Approved:**               **May 15, 1985**

**Policy Revised:**                 **April 28, 2014**