



Jackson Public Schools
Open Doors – Gifted Education Program
from the Teaching and Learning Guide for the Gifted Education Program (2018)

Purpose

Education is not the learning of the facts, but the training of the mind to think.

— Albert Einstein

The **purpose** of the Open Doors – Gifted Education Program is to identify and serve such students in a uniquely qualitatively differentiated program not available in the regular classroom. Gifted education programs shall be in addition to and different from the regular program of instruction provided by the district's schools.

Philosophy

The **philosophy** of the Open Doors – Gifted Education Program is that effective instruction of intellectually gifted students takes place in environments that—

- Permit and encourage gifted students to develop their potential through interaction with intellectual peers;
- Encourages and nurtures inquiry, flexibility, decision making, thinking skills, self-evaluation, and divergent thinking;
- Honors students' unique learning styles, talents, and differences; and
- Provides appropriate modifications and accommodations in learning environments for individualized learning.

Vision

The **vision** of the Open Doors – Gifted Education Program is to be a top-ranked teaching and learning community that develops and cultivates students' intellectual abilities and fosters their social and emotional development to meet students' unique needs.

Mission

The **mission** of the Open Doors – Gifted Education Program is to develop, enhance, and maximize the development of intellectually gifted learners by providing a unique educational experiences which allow them to succeed in a global learning environment.



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Goals and Objectives

The **goals and objectives** are established based upon the results of the annual self-evaluation conducted by each school and the District. The goals and objectives of the Open Doors – Gifted Education Program are to —

Goal 1. Provide challenging opportunities for students to learn from one another;

**All
Educational
Settings**

G1. Objective 1. Grouping arrangements that meet the needs of gifted students and high ability learners are provided in all educational settings within each school in the district. (Criterion III: Program Design)

Goal 2. Ensure a balanced approach to teaching and learning by providing a curriculum that meets students’ individual needs;

Goal 3. Develop life-long learners who become productive, creative, and contributing members of society;

Goal 4. Increase understanding of self and others to develop healthy, positive, and enriching relationships; and

Goal 5. Improve parental and community involvement for the advancement of gifted education.

**Parent
and Community
Involvement**

G5. Objective 1. The District provides the recommended 300 minutes per week of gifted services and there is evidence of collaboration among building administrators, gifted program teachers, and general education teachers to identify and make curricular modifications that address the specific needs of gifted students. (Criterion II: Program Administration and Management)

G5. Objective 2. The Board of Trustees adopts a policy reflecting support of gifted education as an integral part of the District’s overall educational offerings. (Criterion II: Program Administration and Management) ✓

G5. Objective 3. An active, local parent advocacy group has been established and are included / consulted in program design, evaluation, and improvement. (Criterion II: Program Administration and Management)