GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Jackson Public School District is responsible for ensuring that gifted education program (GEP) regulations, standards, and specific requirements for gifted education in the State of Mississippi are followed and effectively implemented, as well as to ensure that high-quality, researched-based curriculum and instructional practices are utilized with gifted learners. The District offers an intellectually gifted education program for grades 2-6 as mandated by the State of Mississippi. The District serves intellectually gifted students in grades 7-8 and academically gifted students in grades 9-12 based on the availability of program funding.

The purpose of the intellectually gifted and academically gifted programs is to identify and serve such students in a uniquely qualitatively differentiated program not available in the regular classroom. GEPs shall be in addition to and different from the regular program of instruction provided by the District’s schools. The State of Mississippi defines “intellectually gifted children” as those children and youth who are found to have an exceptionally high degree of intelligence as documented through the identification process. The State of Mississippi defines “academically gifted children” as those children and youth who are found to have an exceptionally high degree of academic ability as documented through the identification process.

The statutory basis and support for gifted education is found in four (4) documents: the Mississippi Gifted Education Act of 1989, Mississippi Code Section 37-23-171 through 37-23-181; the Standards for Gifted Education Programs in Mississippi (2004); Regulations for Gifted Education Programs in Mississippi (2013); and the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards (2012).

The District’s board-approved Teaching and Learning Guide for Gifted Education, often referred to as the District’s Instructional Management Plan (IMP), guides District and school administrators, GEP teachers, students, and parents participating in the gifted education program(s). By law, participating intellectually gifted education students are required to receive gifted services by a properly gifted-endorsed teacher in a resource room for a minimum of five (5) hours per week. Academically gifted education courses offered in grades 9-12 are approved by the Mississippi Department of Education as listed in its document, Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi. Teachers of academically gifted education courses shall have a valid teaching license in the appropriate secondary area and the gifted education endorsement. The academically gifted education course shall satisfy time requirements for a Carnegie unit course. Refer to the complete IMP document for additional regulations, policies, and procedures which govern implementation of the gifted education programs of the District.

Should the parents of a student in the gifted program not agree to the removal of the student from the program, the District shall grant the parents a hearing in accordance with the Student Complaint Policy JCQ which prescribes the procedure for how this hearing will be conducted and how the lack of agreement will be resolved. The Superintendent is authorized to promulgate further procedures to implement this policy.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District