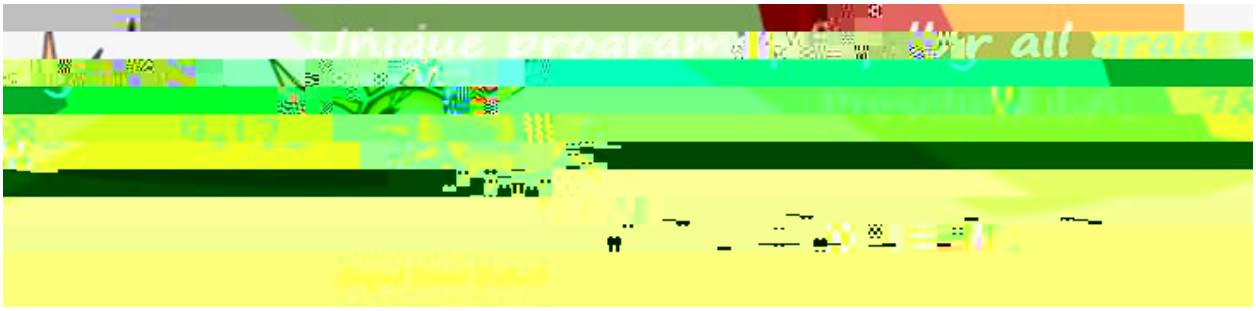


Students Achieving Through Gifted Education

Deer Valley Unified School District
Gifted Services Handbook
for SAGE Schools
2021-2022

Deer Valley Mission, Vision, and Core

Gifted Services Philosophy & Goals

DVUSD provides a continuum of services for gifted students in prekindergarten through 12th grade, with services implemented according to a Continuum of Services Plan (CSP) developed at each of our schools. Because Deer Valley has a focus on choice programs and focus schools, the CSP at each school may vary to meet the community's needs. Each school implements one or more of the specified models as determined by the site administrators, the school gifted specialist, and the Gifted Services Department.

DVUSD Gifted Services believes all students, schools, and communities are unique. Our goal is to provide a wide range of services to meet our students' needs and interests while incorporating our educators' strengths. DVUSD Gifted Services supports our schools in selecting the best programs for their students and communities.

Students Achieving through Gifted Education

SAGE is Deer Valley's original gifted service. It is a pull-out, content replacement program that offers an environment of like minds for the duration of a full class period in either English Language Arts and/or Math. This program is still available at many of our schools. The SAGE learning environment provides opportunities to see and make connections from prior learning, across curricular areas, to present learning in a small group environment.

SAGE is not just a service DVUSD schools can choose to offer their gifted communities, but is now the name for all of our schools who are not receiving Title 1 funding. (Schools receiving Title 1 funds are known as SPARK, and they have their own handbook.) All schools meet with the Gifted Services Department regularly to choose from a wide range of services to meet their community's specific needs. The SAGE class/program is just one of many services these schools can offer to best meet the needs of their gifted learners.

SAGE Schools:

Identification & Placement

Identification & Placement (cont'd)

Psychological Evaluations & Out Of District Test Scores

The Manager of Gifted and Advanced Academics can review other state approved assessments given by a licensed psychologist or school district. The Manager can then place students who meet the criteria for gifted identification in a Deer Valley school.

Testing and Qualifying for Specific Programs

Renaissance Highly Gifted Academies

DVUSD accepts applications for placement in one of the Renaissance Highly Gifted Academies for students meeting specific criteria for intellectual and academic capabilities. Qualifying gifted identification scores are: All 3 scores (Verbal, Quantitative, Non-Verbal) are at the 90th percentile or higher with a total of 280 percentile points or greater combined. ~OR~ a qualifying I.Q. Score of 132 or higher. Additional criteria include documented achievement above grade level and gifted characteristic profiles completed by parents and teachers.

Program Staffing

Gifted Specialists

DVUSD Gifted Services works closely with our Human Resources Department to provide a Gifted Specialist to each DVUSD campus.

- Schools that have 60 or more gifted student contacts receive a full time Gifted Specialist.
- Schools with less than 60 contacts receive less staffing. Our smallest schools have a part time Gifted Specialist that provides services at least three full days each week.
- Schools with exceptionally high contact numbers receive additional support from our Gifted Enrichment Specialists. These Specialists typically help the school Gifted Specialist by providing enrichment & support to Gifted Cluster Teachers in grades K-3 allowing gifted support at all grade levels.

Gifted ClusterTeachers

DVUSD also has gifted cluster teachers in various grade levels deepening on the service model at the school or grade level. Grade levels K-

Program Models

Deer Valley Gifted Services works with schools to choose different programs in order to best meet the needs of their students and community. More in-depth descriptions of our models and services are available on our website here: www.dvusd.org/gifted

In summary, the following programs are available at our SAGE schools:

Prekindergarten

Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten are available at many campuses. These programs are flexible & student-centered. Teachers differentiate for all abilities & learners. Cognitive ability testing is not required prior to applying. The prekindergarten is tuition based.

Grades K-8 Full Day Programs

Bright Child Kindergarten – Available at Canyon Springs and Highland Lakes Only

Bright Child Kindergarten is a full day, self-contained program for gifted and advanced learners. This program is taught by a fully endorsed gifted teacher, is student-centered, and includes world language instruction. An application process is a requirement. Bright Child is offered at Canyon Springs & Highland Lakes schools. All other K-6 & K-8 schools offer Gifted Cluster Classrooms in Kindergarten.

Gifted Cluster Model

Cluster grouping is a full day service model. Gifted students are grouped together in a classroom with teachers who are trained to differentiate the curriculum and environment for gifted students. These teachers understand and value the unique academic and emotional needs of gifted students, and have built a classroom environment that challenges students in every content area. Gifted students benefit from being grouped with their intellectual peers within a differentiated and enriching classroom. They participate in critical thinking, inquiry, and problem solving. Students are empowered to become organized, self-directed, lifelong learners. Classroom compositions are carefully structured with two main goals: to ensure that there is a balance throughout the grade level, and to reduce the learning range found in any given classroom. This system provides opportunities for teachers to more readily respond to the needs of all their students. Acceleration opportunities are available and considered based on individual readiness and needs.

Program Models (Cont.)

Gifted Cohort Model

The Gifted Cohort is a full day gifted service model. Gifted identified students are placed into one class, at their grade level, with other gifted identified students. The classes are taught by a teacher (or teachers) who have or are working on earning their Gifted Endorsement. This cohort may stay with their homeroom teacher all day or move from teacher to teacher as a group depending on the configuration at each school and grade level. Gifted students are in a classroom with teachers who are trained to adapt the curriculum and environment for gifted learners.

Renaissance Highly Gifted Academies - Available at Canyon Springs and Highland Lakes Only

Located at Canyon Springs and Highland Lakes schools, Renaissance Academy provides an all-day differentiated learning experience addressing the individual needs of highly gifted students. Students acquire a solid foundation in the content areas of mathematics, language and communication arts, social studies, science, and technology literacy and work at advanced levels within these content areas at an accelerated pace. Learning opportunities include engagement in higher order and critical thinking skills; personal development and responsibility; and community and peer involvement. In this learning community of supportive and collaborative peers, students are expected to take responsibility and ownership for their academic achievement and personal growth framed by their strengths and interests. Qualified students are those who have met the published placement qualifications, and who have applied and been accepted to attend the Renaissance Academy.

Middle Grades (7 & 8)

Middle School Advanced Placement Courses

At the middle school level, advanced-level courses are designed to provide a more rigorous curriculum and higher expectations for student performance. Advanced courses follow the Parallel Curriculum Model. They provide an enriching, rigorous curriculum that engages high ability and high achieving students. Students must have the potential to accelerate through content standards and commit to more in-depth study. Curriculum in advanced courses is more sophisticated and complex. Instruction incorporates creative and productive thinking, problem solving, critical thinking skills, research, personal development and communication. Advanced courses prepare students for high-school level honors, advanced placement, and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. Students qualify for placement in an advanced level course by meeting the district requirements for placement in the gifted program or meeting school standards for honors placement.

Program Models (Cont.)

SPARK

Curriculum & Classroom

Curriculum & Classroom Instruction (Cont.)

Differentiated Product

Choice allows gifted students to make decisions about what they learn and how they show what they know.

- Technology integration
- Tiered assessments
- Projects
- Rubrics
- Self-assessment
- Teacher feedback for material beyond the standards

Differentiated CurriculumContent

Students master the grade level standards and beyond. The curriculum is accelerated or enriched based on student interests and strengths.

- High level thinking
- Problem solving
- Real life application
- Interest area exploration

Differentiated Learniatpen00 Tc 0(n)- mg/Ah

Curriculum & Classroom Instruction (Cont.)

Gifted Rocks! Summer Camps

DVUSD coordinates and hosts week long full day summer camps for gifted students each year. Gifted teachers offer a variety of engaging courses in the STEM and humanities fields. DVUSD and non-DVUSD students are able to participate.

Social & Emotional Development

Deer Valley gifted educators understand the unique social and emotional needs and risks that gifted students face. Critical elements in our programs include significant time with intellectual peers, appropriate pacing, flexibility, choice, and student empowerment over educational processes. DVUSD also provides multiple extracurricular opportunities in gifted students' interest areas and leadership opportunities. Teachers have developed a list of affective goals for gifted students:

Gifted Cluster, Cohort, Bright Child Kindergarten, & SPARK Classrooms

Parent Resources & Communication

DVUSD involves parents and community members through

Gifted Parent Presentations

Each school's gifted specialist must offer a meeting each fall to inform parents about gifted services in their school. They cover a variety of topics of interest and need in their specific community. Parents have the opportunity to meet the teachers and each other, and learn more about services for their gifted child.

Gifted Parent Presentation Series

Starting in 2013-14, DVUSD Gifted Services implemented an annual presentation series. The opportunity is open to all community members both inside and outside of district boundaries. Parents have an opportunity to submit their questions before each presentation so the presenter can customize the presentation. We try to offer different parent nights each year and/or host a parent institute or other event when we are able.

Gifted Parent Institute

In 2018 DVUSD offered its first annual Gifted Parent Institute. Parents from around the north valley attended breakout sessions as well as key notes from national guest speakers while their children attended our Lego Robotics camp. In 2019, DVUSD hosted its second annual Gifted Parent Institute and also partnered with AAGT to host the State Parent Institute and other events. We look forward to continue offering these events for our community.

Gifted Parent Facebook Community Group

The Deer Valley Gifted Community ("DVGC") is an online community and informal network of parents, teachers and others who wish to support the various gifted programs within the Deer Valley Unified School District ("DVUSD") in Arizona. DVGC was started by a few committed parents of DVUSD gifted children who saw a need for organizing supporters of gifted students in order to create a stronger community with a single vision - that of supporting our gifted children. The Community is a place where gifted supporters connect to share resources, find support and network with others who have or work with gifted children, and look for ways to come alongside those who are already working hard to make DVUSD's gifted programs better.

Parent Resources & Communication (Cont.)

Communication at Schools

The general education teacher and the Gifted Specialist will communicate regularly in order to collaboratively ensure each student's success. As needed, teachers will contact each other by phone, email, or in person to discuss student needs.

Communication with Families

Parent communication is provided through the following methods that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Periodic newsletters that provide information regarding what students are doing in class

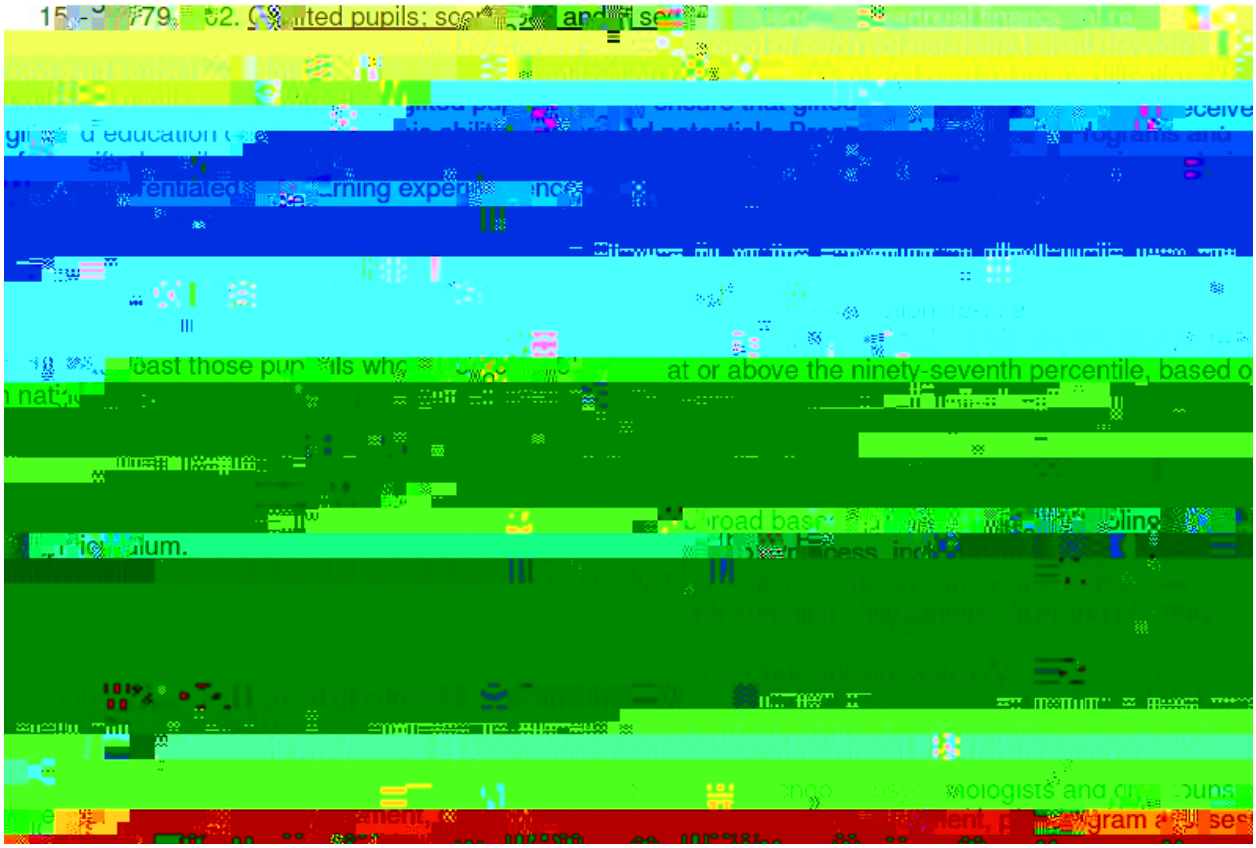
The School s Responsibilities are

Gifted Specialists and classroom teachers and administrators will:

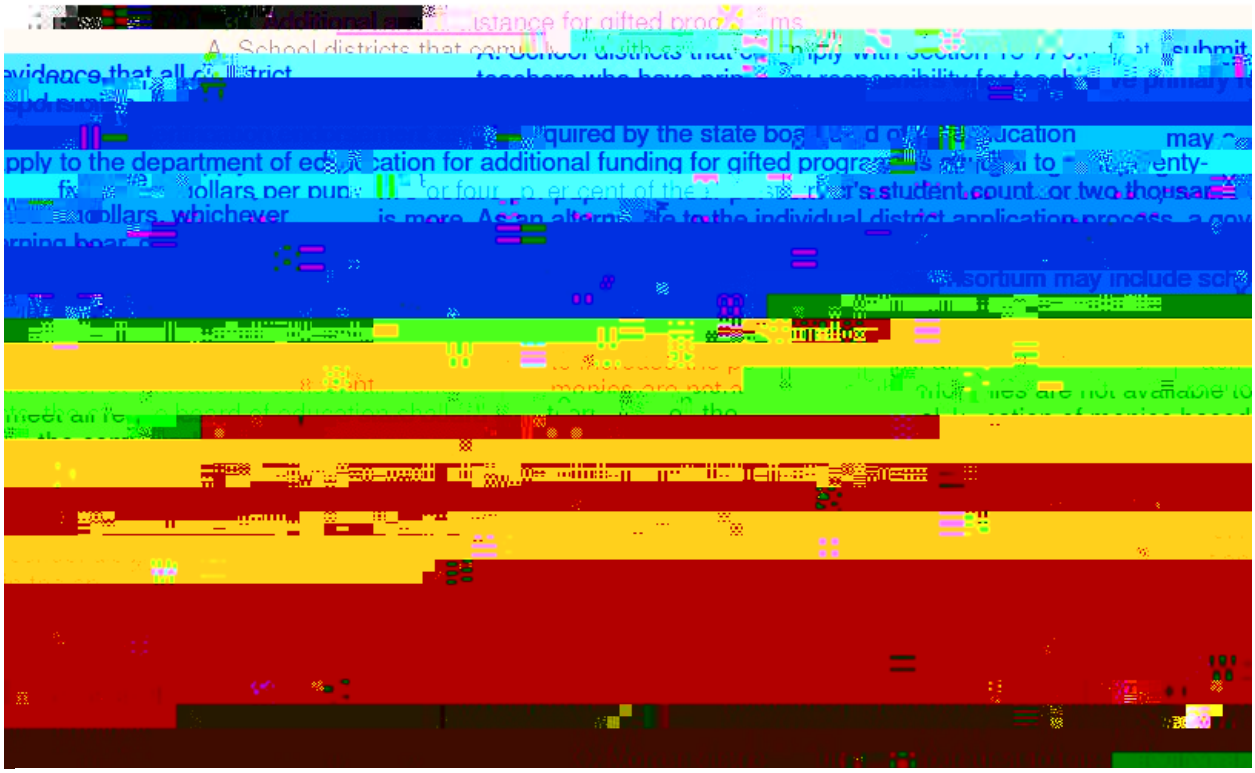
- Provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum that embraces students' gifts and talents
- Differentiate the curriculum by compacting and enriching the general education curriculum within the regular school day
- Provide enrichment opportunities through the various programs that expose students to experiences that en (ha)4 (t)10 Td[(t)a (r)4 (a)44 (4 (nd.Foo /Tha)4 (t)10 (e)3 89 0(e)3 (d)13 (r)4 (a)u)-4 (in)-

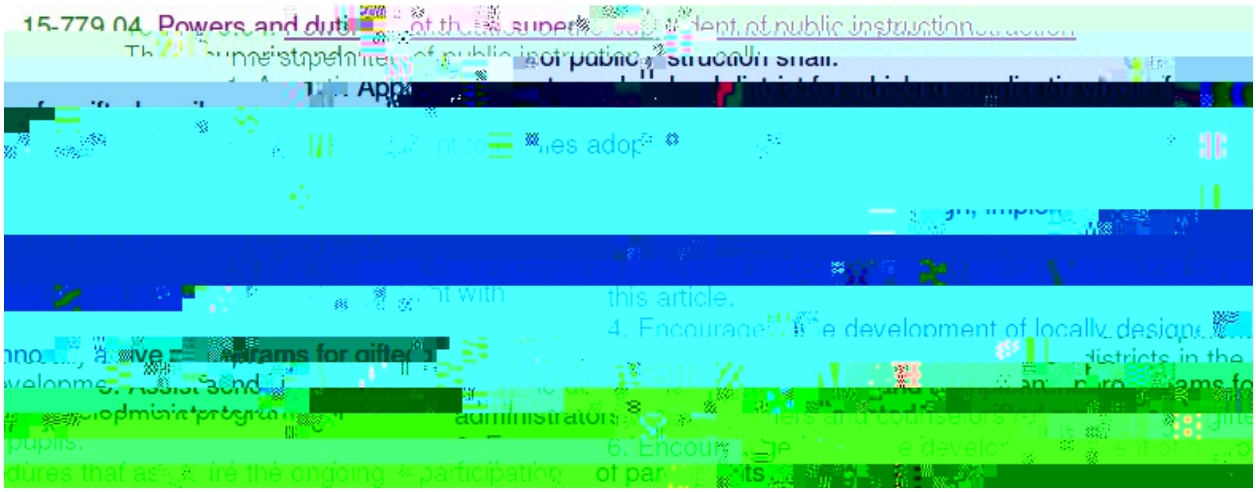
State Mandates Cont.

Appendix B (page 2)

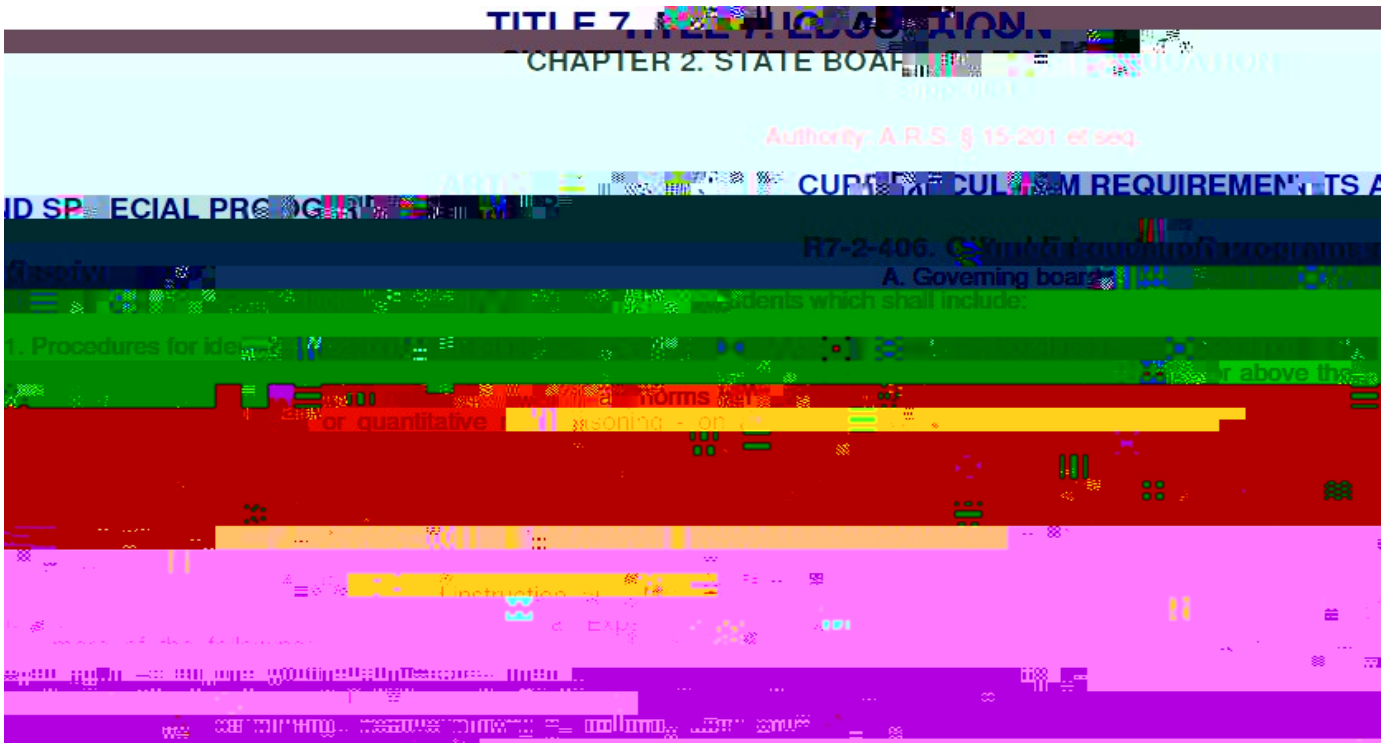


State Mandates Cont.





State Mandates Cont.



3. Parent involvement.
   a. Each LEA shall provide the following information to all parents/legal guardians:
      i. Definition of a gifted child;
      iv. Written criteria of the LEA for referral, screening, selection and placement

Gifted Services Department

For general information please visit our website:
dvusd.org/gifted

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