



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

Table of Contents

Section	Page
Mission, Vision, & CoreValues	2
Philosophy & Goals	3
Identification & Placement	5
Program Staffing	8
Program Models	9
Curriculum & Classroom Instruction	11
Parent Resources & Communication	16
Expectations & Responsibilities	17
State Mandates	18
Gifted Services Department	22

SPARK Schools:

- Arrowhead
- Constitution
- Esperanza
- Greenbrier
- Mirage
- Mountain Shadows
- Park Meadows
- Paseo Hills
- Sunrise
- Village Meadows
- Vista Peak



Gifted Service Philosophy & Goals

DVUSD provides a continuum of services for gifted students in prekindergarten through grade 12, 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.

Please visit individual school websites to see what services are offered and what qualifications are required for program placements.

Supporting Potential & Achievement in Remarkable Kids

SPARK is an enrichment-based learning program that addresses the unique needs of gifted students at our Title 1 schools, although any school may choose to offer this service.

Program Overview

SPARK (Supporting Potential and Achievement in Remarkable Kids) is the name of DVUSD's content enrichment program, and it typically serves grades K-6. SPARK is an ongoing enrichment learning program that addresses the unique needs of gifted, high achieving, and high potential students at our participating schools. Students attend certain days during the week, depending on the schedule of the school, during grade level RTI/MTSS periods.

Program Benefits

This program provides students with engaging experiences in mathematics, language and communication, writing, social studies, science, technology, and/or the arts through enrichment opportunities. The learning experiences in SPARK require students to think critically, collaborate with others, communicate their ideas, and show creativity. SPARK offers an environment of like minds for the duration of full RTI periods for enrichment to supplement content area classes. Our schools offer different versions of the SPARK program. Some of these variations include project-based learning, STEM activities, group reports, or other topics based on student

Types of Identification Testing

DVUSD uses the following assessments for gifted identification:

- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)
- DVUSD Gifted Identification Matrix (SPARK Schools)
- Other state approved assessments given by licensed psychologists

Identification & Placement

The state of Arizona identifies students as gifted when they score at the 97th percentile or above in any one of the three approved areas on a state approved assessment. These areas are verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Because the state allows some flexibility, DVUSD identifies students as gifted when they score at the 95th percentile or higher at any of our campuses. In addition, some schools offer programs

These matrixed students will be placed in the gifted program to provide them enrichment and acceleration opportunities to prepare them for advanced educational opportunities. This will be done upon permission of the parents. If in the event that the student falls behind in academic instruction in the regular academic setting, the student will be placed on a review plan created by the school's Gifted Specialist. This plan will outline and utilize strategies that will assist and promote their academic success. If in the event the child does not achieve success, withdrawal from the gifted program will be considered.

Testing and Qualifying for Specific Programs

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

Program Staffing

Gifted Specialists

DVUSD Gifted Services works closely with our Human Resources Department to

Deer Valley Gifted Services works with schools to choose different programs in order to best meet the needs of their students and community. More depth descriptions of our models and services are available on our website here: <https://www.dvUSD.org/Page/37245> In summary, the SPARK program will utilize the following models based on the needs of the school:

Gifted Cluster Model

Gifted students are grouped together in a classroom with teachers who are trained to differentiate the curriculum and environment for gifted students. 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 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.

Push-in/Coaching Model

The gifted specialist will push into the cluster classrooms to provide enrichment and/or coaching for the cluster teacher. They can either uti

ProgramModels

Curriculum and Classroom Instruction

DVUSD guarantees a viable curriculum for all students. Gifted teachers in DVUSD teach the Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards (ACCRS) at all grade levels. A variety of grouping strategies allows for acceleration and enrichment to differentiate pacing. Gifted classrooms have access to the standard district adopted resources and additional resources specifically procured for gifted students. Gifted teachers participate in all district curriculum adoption committees. District Adopted materials were approved by our Governing Board, and Curated Materials were reviewed by the Curriculum Department.

Gifted District Adopted Resources and Curated Supplemental Resources are:

English Language Arts (K-8)

Curriculum Resources (May vary between classes and/ or campuses)	Cluster/ Cohort	SAGE	Renaissance	SPARK
District Adopted Curriculum				
Integrated Curriculum Model • William & Mary		X	X	7-0.911150 9.96
Junior Great Books	X	X	X	X
Junior Great Books Nonfiction			X (G 2&3)	
Junior Great Books (6-8) Junior Great Books (6-8) Junior Great Books (6-8) Junior Great Books (6-8) Junior Great Books (6-8)		X	X	

Instruction

In all gifted service models, students learn according to the following standards:

- Arizona College and Career Ready Standards (Common Core Academic Standards)
- NAGC Gifted Programming Standards
- International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards

Gifted teachers assess students on mastery of the core standards first, and then differentiate instruction through enrichment and acceleration as determined by each individual model and based on student strengths and needs. The following are specific strategies used in the SPARK model.

Enrichment

Enrichment refers to the presentation of curriculum content with more depth, breadth, complexity, or abstractness than the general curriculum. Enrichment also allows exploration in individual interest areas.

Acceleration

Acceleration means presenting the curriculum content earlier or at a faster pace. Options may include:

- Accelerating curriculum in the general classrooms
- Attending classrooms at the next grade level for part of the day
- Placement in honors or advanced content classes

Differentiation

Arizona College and Career Ready Standards are taught while utilizing differentiated instructional strategies to meet the needs of gifted students. Differentiated classrooms allow a gifted student to gain a deeper, broader understanding of the curriculum content. For gifted children, choice is a vital component of all areas of differentiation. In alignment with the Arizona mandate and best practices in gifted education, teachers differentiate for gifted students by process, product, content, and learning environment.

Differentiated Process

The gifted cluster classroom puts students in charge of their learning and makes the teacher a facilitator. Students work at a pace that matches their ability, not that of their peers.

- Curriculum compacting
- Pre-testing
- Tiered activities
-

Curriculum and Classroom Instruction (con

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 Curriculum Content

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

Curriculum and Classroom Instruction (con

Examples of Leadership Development Opportunities

- Student Council
- Student Government

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.

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

DVUSD Gifted Services implements 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 offer two to three parent nights each year or provide a full day Gifted parent Institute, and also host state and regional events.

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.

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 currently and what they may have already completed

- Website that provides schedule and general program information

The School's Responsibilities are-

Gifted Specialists and classroom teachers and administrators

State Mandates

Arizona Revised Statutes

The Arizona Revised Statutes have been updated with the 47th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session information, and contain the version of the statute as of September 1, 2007.

Title 15 - Education

Article 7 - Gifted Education

15-779

15-779.01. The purpose of this article is to ensure that students who are identified as gifted and talented receive appropriate educational services to meet their needs. The purpose of this article is to ensure that students who are identified as gifted and talented receive appropriate educational services to meet their needs.

15-779.01. A student of school age, who due to superior intellect or advanced learning ability, or both, is not afforded an opportunity for adequate progress and development in the regular classroom, shall be eligible for gifted and talented services to meet their needs.

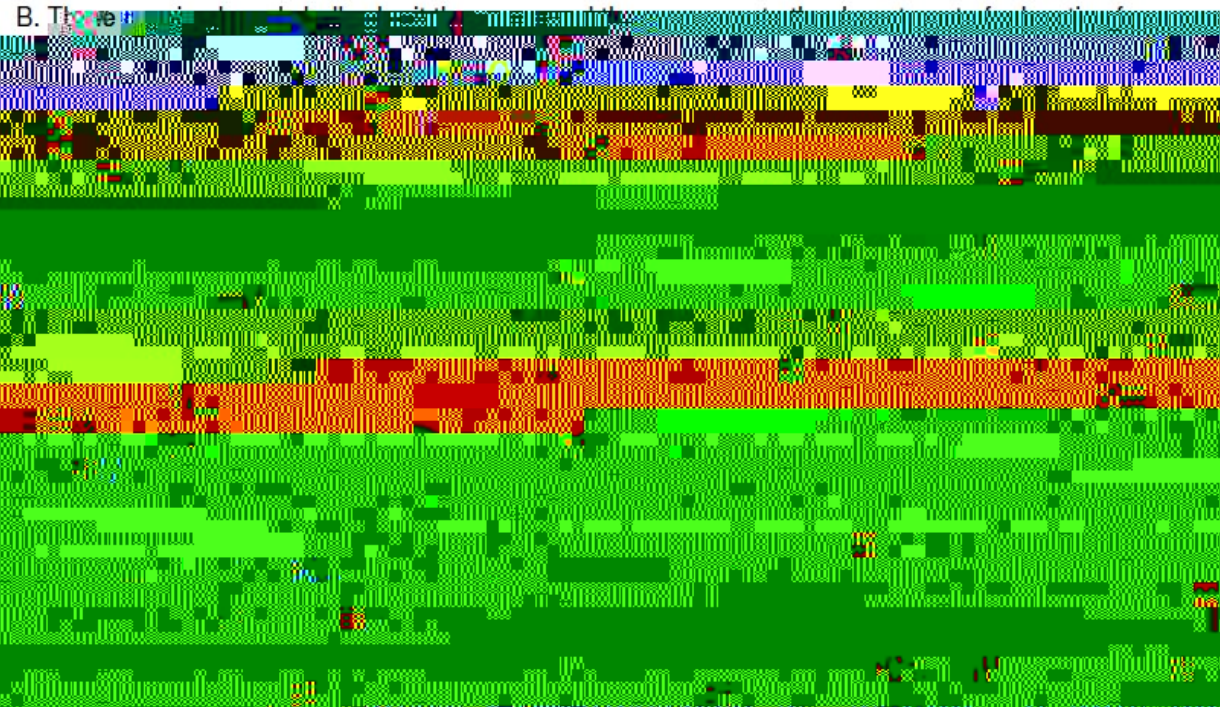
15-779.01. Powers and duties of the school district governing body.

A. Because of the unique needs of gifted and talented students, the governing body of a school district shall:

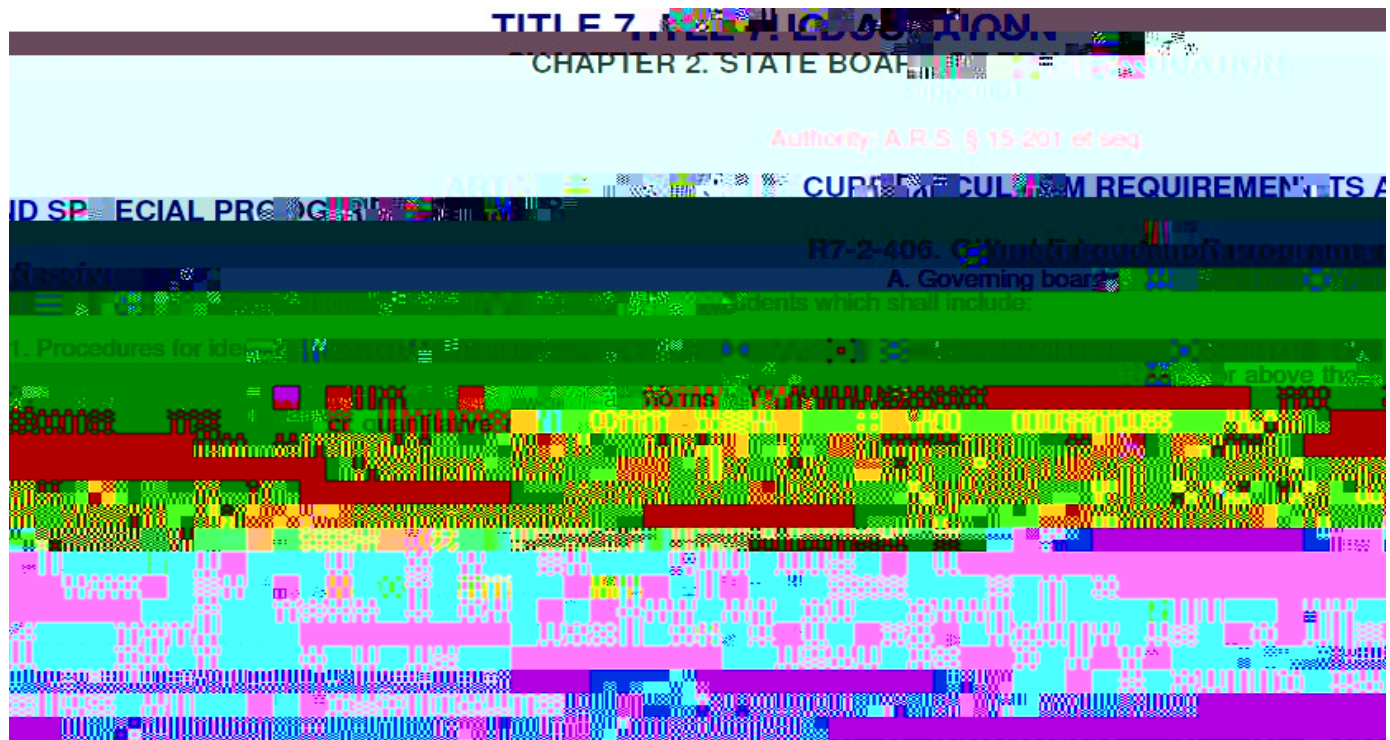
1. Provide for the identification of gifted and talented students.
2. Provide for the development of a gifted and talented program.
3. Provide for the implementation of the gifted and talented program.
4. Provide for the evaluation of the gifted and talented program.

State Mandates Cont.

Appendix B (page 2)



State Mandates Cont.



3. Parent involvement.

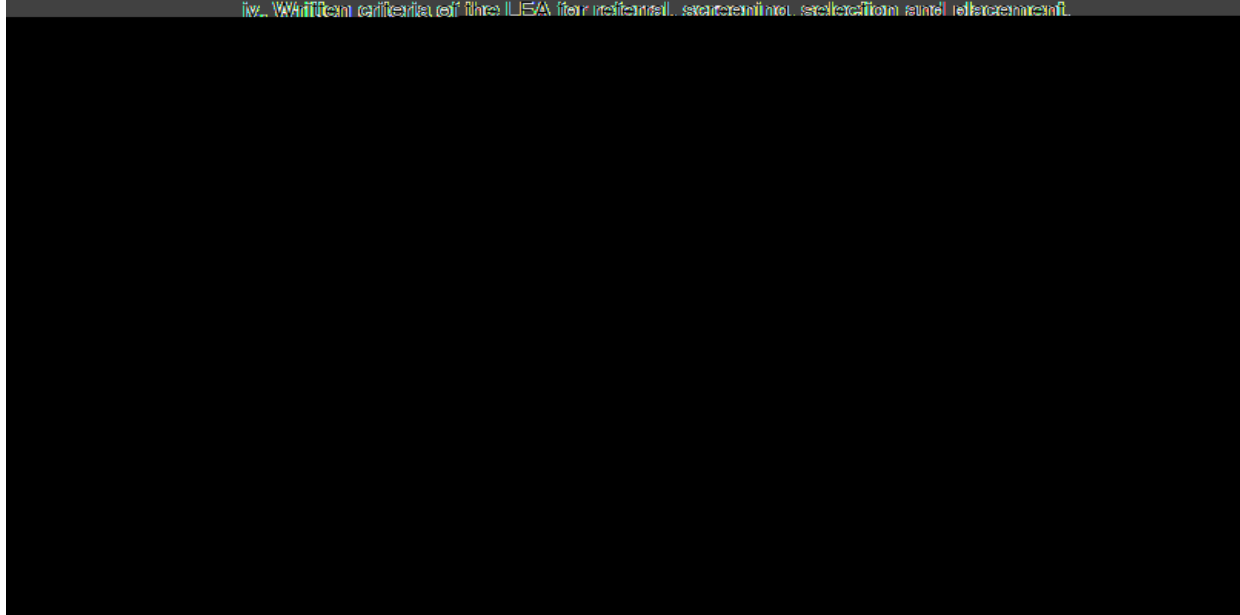
a. Each LEA shall provide the following information to all parents or legal guardians:

i. Definition of a gifted child;

ii. Services available for gifted students available from the LEA;

iii. Services available from the LEA;

iv. Written criteria of the LEA for referral, identification, selection and placement.



Gifted Services Department

For general information please visit our website:

dvusd.org/gifted

For general questions:

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