

DEFINITION OF GIFTEDNESS

GIFTED AND TALENTED MANDATE

“Each public school district is responsible for and shall provide for the special instructional needs of gifted and talented children enrolled therein. Public school districts in the state shall provide instruction and training for children between the ages of five (5) years and eighteen (18) years who are gifted and talented as defined by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall, through its Department of Education, determine eligibility criteria and assist school districts in developing a variety of flexible approaches for instruction and training that may include administrative accommodations, curriculum modifications and special programs” (Idaho Code §33-2003).S

STATE OF IDAHO DEFINITION OF GIFTEDNESS/TALENTED

"Gifted and talented children" refers to those students who are identified as possessing demonstrated or potential abilities that give evidence of high performing capabilities in intellectual, creative, specific academic or leadership areas, or ability in the performing or visual arts and who require services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop such capabilities (Idaho Code §33-2001).

TALENT AREAS AS IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE OF IDAHO

- Intellectual: as evidenced by superior aptitude for
 - o understanding facts, concepts, generalizations and their relationships
 - o identifying patterns
 - o verbal and nonverbal reasoning
 - o spatial perceptions
 - o developing and evaluating ideas

- Specific Academic: as evidenced by superior ability in mastering skills and concepts in one or more curriculum areas.

- Leadership: as evidenced by a variety of outstanding characteristics, including:
 - o responsibility
 - o rapid insight into cause/effect relationships
 - o organizational skills
 - o ability to motivate performance of others
 - o interpersonal intuition
 - o tendency to be respected by peers
 - o vision and direction
 - o ability to articulate ideas and communicate well with others

- Creativity: as evidenced by superior abilities in:
 - o fluency, flexibility, originality, elaboration
 - o divergent thinking skills
 - o problem solving strategies

- Visual/Performing Arts: is demonstrated by superior aptitude in
 - o dance
 - o music
 - o theater
 - o visual arts
 - o characteristics include: exhibition of aesthetic, critical, historical and production aspects of the art

(From: Best Practices Manual for Gifted and Talented Programs in the State of Idaho. Idaho Department of Education, pages 2-3.

Available online: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/giftedtalented/docs/manuals/practicesmanual.pdf>.)