

ADVANCED LEARNER PROGRAM

In meeting its obligation to provide education for Advanced Learners, the District is required and challenged to identify and provide programming for students for whom there is demonstrated evidence of extraordinary capabilities and for whom some aspect(s) of the District's standard curriculum and regular programs may be inappropriate. At the same time, it is the Board's expectation that the District's standard curriculum and educational programs will be sufficiently adaptable, and cover a sufficiently wide span of rigor, such that they will be appropriate for, and adequately challenge, many students who are very intelligent, creative, hard-working, and resourceful, as well as many students who consistently demonstrate above-average performance. This expectation for the standard curriculum is aligned with the Board's foundational belief that all students have (1) a tremendous aptitude and capability to learn; (2) valuable talents, skills, and abilities that should be nurtured and celebrated; and (3) unique educational needs and interests. Keeping this foundational belief in mind, the District will consider and may implement individualized curricular and program modifications or other individualized interventions for any student.

The Advanced Learner Coordinator will prepare a written report concerning the status of the District's program and plan for Advanced Learners each school year. In connection with this report, the Coordinator shall assess the extent to which the District's identification and referral process for advanced learner education could be modified to be more responsive to students within different demographic subgroups. This assessment shall begin with an initial determination as to whether particular demographic subgroups are numerically under-represented, or over-represented, with the program relative to the total student population.

ADOPTED: April 23, 2001

REVISED: July 25, 2011
May 7, 2018

REVIEW DATE: May 7, 2018

LEGAL REF.: Wisconsin Statutes: 118.35
121.02(1)(t)

Wisconsin Administrative Code: PI 8.01(2)(t)

CROSS REF.: IGBB-R, Advanced Learner Program Guidelines
Advanced Learner Program Plan and Resource Guide

ADVANCED LEARNER PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The School District of Jefferson believes that all students have unique gifts and talents, the ability to learn and achieve, and should be provided opportunities for optimal development. We believe that advanced students possess measurable, qualitatively different characteristics in one or more of five areas: general intellectual ability, creativity, leadership, artistic ability and academic aptitude. The School District of Jefferson chooses to adopt the language of Advanced Learner instead of the more prevalent language of Gifted and Talented. In doing so we hope to advance a support system that is more inclusive and flexible than traditional gifted education approaches, while at the same time maintaining a commitment to promoting individualized learning experiences for our most advanced students.

Guidelines for developing gifted education plans in Wisconsin are anchored in this broad notion of giftedness and are based on three major ideas: 1) *That intelligences are dynamic and fluid*; 2) *That giftedness is inclusive*; and 3) *That educational systems should be responsive*.

Recognizing that high achieving students need to be identified, challenged and actively supported, the School District of Jefferson will have a program and plan for advanced learners.

1. Upon recommendation of the District Administrator, the School Board shall designate a licensed employee assigned to coordinate the District's Advanced Learner program (the "Coordinator"). The Coordinator shall have the primary responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day implementation and the ongoing development, evaluation and revision of the District's plan for gifted education for students in all grades.
2. The Advanced Learner plan and program shall provide for the identification and, as needed, further assessment or evaluation of students who may require educational programming, services, or activities based on identified exceptionalities in specific academic areas or in the other categories/capabilities that are addressed in the plan.
3. The identification and referral process within the plan and program shall allow for and encourage identification and referral based on multiple measures and multiple sources of information.
4. The plan and program shall provide an opportunity for parental participation in the identification and referral process, and in determining any individualized programming for the student.
5. The District's plan and program for the education of advanced learners shall be designed and implemented in a manner that is consistent with the District's nondiscrimination obligations and policies. No student shall be denied the opportunity to access or participate in the Advanced Learner program in a manner that would constitute unlawful discrimination or that would otherwise violate any applicable law or Board policy.
6. Notwithstanding the designation of a specific Coordinator, all licensed employees have some responsibilities with respect to advanced learner education. All such employees are expected to work collaboratively to identify and meet student needs and to implement and improve the District's program for advanced learners.