

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The purpose of this letter is to inform parents that the School District of Palm Beach County offers programs to meet the needs of our most capable students. These students demonstrate academic strengths and characteristics typically observed in gifted learners. Gifted characteristics include an enriched vocabulary, a wide range of interests, and a high level of curiosity above that exhibited by most students. Students considered as gifted often display a keen interest in learning and develop academic skills at an early age.

The State of Florida has established eligibility criteria for gifted education services. The requirements include superior intellect as measured by a score of two standard deviations or more above the mean on an individually administered standardized test of intelligence, consistent demonstration of gifted characteristics, and a need for a special education program other than the regular education curriculum. Need for gifted program services is documented with achievement testing and performance information such as report card grades and student work samples. The Child Study/Educational Plan Committee at the student's home school reviews this documentation for gifted program eligibility.

The majority of gifted students at the elementary level attend one of sixteen full-time gifted centers strategically located throughout the District. In addition to the centers, several schools offer a part-time gifted program at their home school.

District middle schools, depending upon budget and scheduling, provide one to four core courses for gifted students. High school options include Advanced Placement and Honors classes.

In addition, middle school students may elect one of the several magnet school options, which include Science-Math Technology, Visual and Performing Arts, and the Middle Years International Baccalaureate Program. High school magnet options include the International Baccalaureate Program, Math-Science-Engineering, Pre-Medicine, Pre-Law, and Teacher Academy. Admissions to the magnet schools requires an application that can be obtained from the Magnet School Office, Room C-124, Fulton-Holland Educational Services Center (434-8755).

If you have questions about gifted program eligibility criteria and program options available for gifted students or if you are interested in referring your child for gifted program screening, you may contact the Exceptional Student Education designee at your child's home school. If you have general questions about the gifted education program in Palm Beach County, you may contact a staff member in the gifted education department at one of the following numbers: 963-3881 or 434-8369.

Sincerely,

Laura Pincus, Director
Exceptional Student Education