

Guidance for Small Districts with Only One Teacher of the Gifted

Prepared by the Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children

Every public school has gifted students attending. Whether a district has a state-approved gifted program or not, it is imperative to the academic and emotional growth of the students that their needs are met within the educational program.

Much of Missouri has smaller school districts in which one teacher is assigned the responsibility of the gifted programming. The teacher may become the instructor, the test examiner, and the administrator of the program. It is essential that impropriety and/or the possibility of conflicts of interest be avoided. Therefore, the Advisory Council on the Education of the Gifted and Talented would like to offer some guidance as to the responsibilities that can be assigned to this staff person.

It is reasonable to expect this person to

- teach the gifted classes;
- communicate with parents regarding their child's academic and emotional progress; and
- serve on a committee of no fewer than three education professionals who will make placement decisions, inform the parents or guardians of the placement decision, and complete program evaluations.

It is **not** reasonable to expect this person to be **solely** responsible for

- administering the identification instrument(s);
- making placement decisions;
- informing the parents of the placement decision;
- applying for state-approved status;
- scheduling courses;
- completing program evaluations; or
- writing policies or procedures relating to gifted education.

Operating a gifted program in a small school district can present challenges. Sharing some responsibilities will ultimately develop a stronger, more equitable, gifted program, which serves the goal of fully addressing the academic and emotional growth of all students.

For more information please visit the [DESE Gifted Education](#) website and the [Advisory Council](#) website for additional resources such as "Recommendations for Providing Levels of Services for Gifted and Advanced Students" and "Identifying and Serving Underrepresented Gifted Students."