

Programs for Exceptionally Gifted Students in Missouri

1. How did Programs for the Exceptionally Gifted begin in Missouri?

In cooperation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the St. Louis Regional Program for Exceptionally Gifted Students (PEGS) opened its doors in September of 1991 in the Lindbergh School District with one teacher and seven elementary students.

In 1996, planning began for a northern metropolitan site for PEGS. DESE approved a planning grant for the 1997-98 school year. The north/northwest site at Pattonville opened to serve grades one through three for the 1998-99 school year. Today, the St. Louis Regional Program serves students from 18 different school districts.

In 1995, a PEGS site was opened in the Center 58 School District in Metropolitan Kansas City, Mo. The Kansas City Program serves students from the Center 58, Hickman Mills, and the Grandview C-4 School Districts. In 1997, Springfield started a program for their middle school students and St. Joseph started their district program in the mid/late 1990's. In 2002, Columbia MO started a program for only students in their district (this program has been discontinued). The Parkway School District began their program in 2008. North Kansas City began their PEGS program in 2017.

2. Why don't all districts have a PEGS program?

PEGS programs are designed for students in the genius range of intelligence. Less than 1% of the student population qualifies and therefore it is difficult for most districts to have a large enough concentration of these students to make it feasible to have such a program. Some districts do accept students from neighboring districts.

Furthermore, in a Levels of Services (LoS) approach, a continuum of services are provided to meet the needs of a range of gifted and advanced learners. PEGS is a Level IV service needed by a few students. For further information, refer to [Recommendations for Providing Levels of Services for Gifted and Advanced Students](#).

3. Do all PEGS programs accept students from neighboring districts?

The only PEGS programs that currently accept students from neighboring districts are in the St. Louis and Kansas City metropolitan areas. It is a local district decision whether or not they have a PEGS program and whether or not they will create arrangements to accept students from neighboring districts.

4. What grade levels are included in the PEGS programs?

The host district determines which grade levels are included. Some are grades 1-12, some are elementary only, and some are middle school only. Check with the host district to find out which grade levels are included.

5. What are the qualifications for acceptance in a PEGS program?

Each local district with a PEGS program established the final selection criteria for acceptance in their program. However, many programs begin screening with the criteria that students score at the 140 or above level on an IQ test for consideration for further assessment.

6. If my child does not live in the host district, who pays for their participation in the PEGS program?

It depends on the contractual agreement(s) entered into by the host district with the home district. In some cases, the home district pays the host district a set amount for the students participating in the program. In other cases, the

parents have to pay this amount for their students' participation in the program. In all cases, it is important to have an open dialogue with the home district administration and the host district so everyone understands what financial responsibility lies with all the parties involved.

7. Who provides transportation to the school if my student does not live in the host district?

If participating students do not live in the host district, transportation to and from the program site is the responsibility of the parents of the students.

8. How are the students' assessment (MAP, End of Course, etc.) results reported for the participating students?

The host site administers the required state assessments. If the parents are paying for their students to attend, the host districts include these students' scores in their accountability report. If the home district is paying for their students to attend the program, the home district include these students' scores in their accountability report.

9. How do I contact the school districts with Gifted Programs?

Websites for PEGS programs are provided below.

Host Sites in the St. Louis Metro Area

Lindbergh – South (<http://go.lindberghschools.ws/Page/6323>)

Pattonville – North (<http://gifted.psdr3.org/?school=pegs>)

Districts Currently Participating in the St. Louis Metro Area

Affton	Jennings	St. Louis City
Brentwood	Ladue	University City
Clayton	Mehlville	Valley Park
Fox C-6	Northwest R-1	Webster Groves
Hancock Place	Orchard Farms	
Hazelwood	Rockwood	

Host Site in the KC Metro Area

Center 58 (<https://www.center.k12.mo.us/our-district/academics/gifted-program>)

Districts Currently Participating in the KC Metro Area

Grandview, Hickman Mills or Center School Districts in Jackson County, MO

Single District Programs

North Kansas City (<https://www.nkcschools.org/domain/6342>)

Parkway (<https://sites.google.com/pkwy.k12.mo.us/parkwaycustomizedlearning/gifted-education?authuser=0>)

Springfield (<https://www.sps.org/Phelps>)

St. Joseph (https://www.sjsd.k12.mo.us/academics/gifted_education)