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CFQRVGF '32/37/34**

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The South Orange-Maplewood School District aims to promote the intellectual development of all students, challenging and inspiring them to do their best. To that end, the Board of Education charged the Equity and Excellence committee to review the current offerings for students identified as Gifted and Talented in the District. These discussions suggested an ad-hoc approach to identification and personalization for students with truly exemplary ability in certain subject areas rather than a systematic strategy.

The Committee discussed a wide variety of factors that bear on this conversation, including: (1) service to children who may otherwise be at risk if not for educational program enhancement, (2) current and plausible instruments/practices for identification, (3) the need for equitable access to identification procedures that in no way privileges certain groups of students over others, (4) encompasses as wide a range of gifted and talented categories, such as leadership, artistic performance along with academic abilities, as is reasonable given other constraints, and (5) examining best and research-guided practices in this area.

The purpose of this document is to guide Administration and establish parameters for the development of Gifted and Talented strategy proposals for presentation to the Board.

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- To fulfill the unique needs of students who are or may be identified as Gifted and Talented in certain identified areas
- To address the perception that highly capable students are not provided with the most appropriate education possible
- To keep the District in compliance with NJ law and regulation governing Gifted and Talented education
- To seek input and derive options in a manner that allows for program development and implementation by AY2014-15

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- A strategy that equitably identifies Gifted and Talented students and provides high quality enhancements and/or alternatives to current educational programming
- A strategy that provides some benefit to the District as a whole
- Each option should offer an analysis of pros/cons, a reasonable estimate of start-up and annual maintenance costs, a reasonable estimate of number of students directly served and articulation of contingencies related to the option

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- No fewer than 2 alternatives must be presented to the Board for consideration
- Criteria for identification shall not fail to be research-based
- Criteria for identification shall not use a single, one-time measure
- No strategy shall result in a self-contained class within a grade
- No strategy shall be presented without a cost/benefit analysis