

**PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS**  
**CAYUSE PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 10**  
(Plan is currently under revision)

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY #2166:**

**INSTRUCTION**

Gifted Program

In accordance with the philosophy to develop the special abilities of each student, the district shall offer appropriate instructional programs to meet the needs of gifted students who are capable of high performance and require differentiated educational programs.

The Superintendent shall establish procedures consistent with state guidelines for nominating, assessing and selecting children of demonstrated achievement, or potential ability in terms of general intellectual ability and academic aptitude.

Legal References:     20F7F901, et. Seq.,                   MCA Gifted and Talented Children  
                          ARM 10.55.804                         Gifted and Talented

Adoption Date: December, 1996

**DEFINITIONS (from MCA 20-7-109)**

- (1) "Gifted and talented children" means children of outstanding abilities who are capable of high performance and require differentiated educational programs beyond those normally offered in public schools in order to fully achieve their potential contribution to self and society. The children so identified include those with demonstrated achievement or potential ability in a variety of worthwhile human endeavors.
- (2) "Professionally qualified persons" means teachers, administrators, school psychologists, counselors, curriculum specialists, artists, musicians, and others with special training who are qualified to appraise pupils' special competencies.

**MISSION**

Cayuse Prairie School shall identify, provide appropriate services for, and regularly assess the progress of our gifted and talented students so that they may fully achieve their potential contribution to self and society, considering academic as well as social/emotional needs. The district shall provide professionally qualified persons to carry out that endeavor.

**NOTE: *WINGS* is the name given to the district gifted and talented program to denote the lift needed for these children to explore and soar beyond the level of the regular education students. *WINGS* will be used throughout this document to identify the gifted and talented program.**

## **IDENTIFICATION**

### Selection Criteria

In order to effectively screen and select students for *WINGS*, Cayuse Prairie currently uses the following multiple criteria with approximate cut off scores:

Test scores: Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test (129) and WISC-FIV, both as needed with written parental consent  
Montana CRT (.93)  
MAPS (no cut off used to determine performance level)

Observation tools: SIGS (Scales for Identifying Gifted Students) teacher and parent checklists, plus our own *WINGS* self checklist as needed.

Other tools: When available, the screening committee also considers student products, portfolios, outside of school accomplishments and, to the extent that they may provide insight, student grades.

### Screening, Identification and Placement Committee

This committee consists of the Gifted and Talented Coordinator, the counselor, an administrator and one other teacher. The committee reviews all the criteria for each nominated student and accepts for identification or tables for future review.

## ***WINGS PROGRAM***

The *WINGS* program is multifaceted and dynamic, as variable as the students for whom it was created. There are some components that are normally available and from which staff, parents and students may choose as part of the student's Personal Education Plan. Those components are as follows:

*Compacting and Differentiation:* These can and should be used on a regular basis in the classroom to assure that each student is finding their individual level of challenge, that their work requires rigor and complexity of thought, and that they have the opportunity to pursue topics of special interest. Each teacher should provide frequent opportunities to use pretesting, contracts and other strategies to assess each student's proficiency level and to present challenging work above that level.

*Pullout Sessions:* *WINGS* students may participate in an occasional pullout session to pursue a special topic. If professional staff is available for ongoing, regular pullout sessions, and if it is determined that this is an effective means of serving the students, those students may attend with written parental consent. Regular classroom work missed during these sessions will be compacted for the students.

*Acceleration, Grade Skipping, Early Kindergarten Entrance:* These options, while available, will only be allowed following careful scrutiny by professional educators, administration and parents and on a case by case basis.

*Distance Learning:* High school level courses are available to *WINGS* students. Currently, our provider is Brigham Young University. These courses have depth and rigor, demanding perseverance, discipline and self motivation as well as adequate computer skills.

## **PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS**

Each *WINGS* student will have a Personal Education Plan (PEP), to be developed by a team of teachers, parents and the student. This plan will be based on the student's proficiency, strengths, interests and needs, both academic and social/emotional. The plan, once developed and accepted by all parties, will be consulted regularly throughout the year, reviewed at the end of each year, and revised as needed. The PEP should serve as a guide for teachers and student to maintain a challenging level in each of the student's classes.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Cayuse Prairie will annually provide a minimum of one required professional development session for all staff focused on gifted and talented education. In addition, teachers will be encouraged to attend any outside professional development opportunities in the field of gifted education. Whenever possible within the budget, workshops will be presented at the school with focus on our students' current needs. The Gifted and Talented Coordinator will attend local seminars and others outside the area when possible. As always, staff members are requested to share information learned with the rest of the staff. Also, the GT Coordinator will collaborate with all teachers of *WINGS* students to locate and choose appropriate activities and materials for student PEPs.

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

Cayuse Prairie is proud of our Partnership for School Success, which invites parents, staff and students to work together to accomplish the very best for our students and school community. To that end, the GT Coordinator provides parent workshops annually to inform parents about giftedness and its many ramifications. The coordinator also works with parents who request help with their children's needs at home, and invites parent participation in the collaboration needed to serve their students at school. Parents also frequently participate as volunteers to work with individuals or groups, to assist teachers in materials preparation, as field trip chaperones and in many other capacities.

## **PROGRAM REVIEW AND REVISION**

The *WINGS* program was created many years ago by a large team of teachers, parents, community members and consultants in the field of gifted education. The program and this plan are currently under revision. The *WINGS* program will be reviewed by a committee of educators, administrator and parents every five years, and revised as needed during the following year. The next review will be April of 2015. Minor changes may be made prior to that date if situations warrant.

**The current Gifted and Talented Coordinator is Betsy Gibson.  
She can be reached at 756-4560 ext 26**