



Blue Valley Schools Gifted Education Eligibility FAQs

What does it mean to be gifted?

In Kansas, giftedness is defined as intellectual giftedness. This means the student's cognitive ability is significantly higher when compared to same age peers. Academic talent, however, is the ability to perform well in one or more academic areas. Academic talent is not always an indication of giftedness.

Who is part of the problem solving team?

The team includes school staff who have knowledge of the student: general education teacher, gifted education teacher, school psychologist, counselor, administrator, and others with information to contribute.

How long does the eligibility process take?

There is not a defined timeframe for the completion of the entire eligibility process. Each child's response to the process is different, and the process reflects the pace that is appropriate for each child. The first two steps occur primarily in the regular classroom, so the duration of these steps varies. When the child enters the final step—the comprehensive educational evaluation—the team must complete the assessments within 60 school days.

Can I prepare my child for the testing process?

We understand parents' desire for students to be prepared for assessments; however, students should not be prepared for intelligence or achievement testing. Preparing students for these tests invalidates the results and often delays the process. Parents should instead encourage their children to relax and simply share their best ability.

Does my child have to earn the highest grades to be considered for gifted education services?

Not necessarily. The evaluation team will include multiple factors when considering eligibility.

Is the school staff required to test my child if I request an evaluation?

Not necessarily. If the school team believes that they have sufficient data to indicate that the child's needs are being appropriately met through the general education program, they can decline to initiate the eligibility process. Formally requesting an evaluation does not necessarily mean that testing will occur.

What if I obtain an outside evaluation that includes intelligence testing?

School problem solving teams will consider educational evaluations conducted by outside practitioners when families provide evaluation reports to the team. The team may or may not use the results of the evaluation based on factors specific to the evaluation and the situation. Consult with your school team regarding the use of an outside evaluation. Obtaining a private evaluation will not replace the Blue Valley gifted education eligibility process.

If our child is not found eligible for gifted education services, can he or she be evaluated again later?

It is possible that a determination of ineligibility for gifted education services may be revisited later. School teams need to see evidence that a variable has changed that could alter the outcome of the eligibility process to consider whether to evaluate a student again. Based on assessment protocols, testing will not be repeated within the same calendar year.

What if families disagree with the staff members of the evaluation team or have concerns about the process?

If a family disagrees with the other members of the evaluation team, you may write a response to the evaluation report that will be attached to it. You can ask questions and express your concerns to the evaluation team. The process is intended to be collaborative, and the data should lead the team to the appropriate outcome for the child based on the results of all the data collected. If you have other concerns about the process that you do not feel have been satisfied by communicating with the school team, psychologist, or principal, you can contact the special education administrator who oversees gifted education.

How do general education teachers meet the needs of children who are identified as gifted?

General education teachers provide differentiated learning experiences that reflect the capabilities and needs of the students in their class(es). Gifted education teachers collaborate with general education teachers to support the use of differentiation strategies that are implemented across the curriculum.

For more information, contact the special education administrator for gifted education [here](#).