

School District of Washington

Board of Education Approved 6.2018

Challenge Programs

Grades Kindergarten through Twelve

Program Overview

The School District of Washington in conjunction with the State of Missouri recognizes the unique needs of the gifted learner. It is the philosophy of the District that students have opportunities to learn and develop to his or her full potential. Gifted students are defined in

Section 162.675, RSMo as “students who exhibit precocious development of mental capacity and learning potential as determined by competent professional evaluation to the extent that continued educational growth and stimulation could best be served by an academic environment beyond that offered through a standard grade-level curriculum.”



The identification process is designed to assess the interaction of multiple traits including behavior and creativity, achievement and intelligence, and problem solving in order to develop a strong link between eligibility and our programming components. If eligible, regular attendance is critical for student success in any District program. Irregular and partial day attendance limits outcomes. Individuals with excessive absence, in conjunction with their parent or guardian, will be reviewed to determine

needed supports or intervention. A similar approach for discipline will also be utilized. All District and building attendance and discipline policies apply.

Grades Kindergarten through Sixth

The Elementary curriculum is constructed around themes and intended to incorporate a wide variety of students’ abilities and interests. Programming begins at the Elementary grades with the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Launch curriculum. While addressing the social and emotional benefits of being with their peers, programming is exploratory in nature focusing on

the design-thinking mindset through creative and collaborative problem solving activities. These activities and projects include computer science, engineering, and biomedical science.

The Elementary program is structured for eligible students to meet one time per week with other identified students according to their grade level or grade level range. Programming is located at South Point Elementary School. Students may purchase breakfast and lunch items through their District lunch account. Payment options are consistent with the District food services program. Transportation is provided to and from Challenge from each public elementary school. Further instruction regarding these services will be provided by the instructors prior to the first day of placement and annually at the beginning of each school year.

Secondary Programming

Within the middle school years (7th and 8th), the same principles continue through interdisciplinary curriculum extension activities and special projects. Eligible students at this level elect to take a specific course that meets daily. Course selection is done at registration and availability is contingent upon the middle school master schedule.

By high school, all students have a multitude of course choices and pathways within the framework of continued exploration or specialization. As such, services in these grades are considered supportive services. These services focus on continued growth and achievement as well as post-secondary planning.