

Gifted Education Programs

Extended School Closure Guidance

SERVICE TO STUDENTS

How should our district provide gifted program services to students during a period of extended school closure?

- Districts may provide assignments and activities to families based on the *Outcomes for Gifted Education Programs*
- Parents may opt the students out of receiving gifted classroom assignments during the extended closure
- Assignments and activities can be distributed digitally or through work packets

GIFTED STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

How should our district complete the gifted identification process?

Universal Screening: Not completed prior to school closure

- If the District has not completed universal screening as planned, the screening should be postponed until classes resume.
- Once school is on its normal schedule, screening should be scheduled and completed as quickly as possible.
- Following the screening, the gifted student identification process should be expedited.

Example: Universal screening is not completed during the spring semester for grade one as scheduled due to extended school closure. The screening will be rescheduled for the first availability in the fall so that second grade students are identified and served without delay.

- As districts schedule events as schools plan to reopen, they should ensure that a grade level is not missed in the universal screening for gifted identification.
- The universal screening provision within the *Regulations for Gifted Education Programs 2013* assures that **every student** in Mississippi is

screened for potential identification at least once during their academic career.

Universal Screening: Completed prior to school closure

- If the District has completed annual universal screening, they may proceed with the referral process.
- Subjective measures can be completed with teachers/parents via phone or teleconference if needed.

Individual Referrals

- Districts may collect individual referrals for students in any grade level during an extended school closure.

This includes students:

1. That did not pass the universal screener when it was administered
 2. In the grade level in which universal screening was postponed
- Subjective measures may be collected from teachers and parents virtually, via phone or teleconference per the publisher.
 - Districts may schedule individual assessments once government officials lift social distancing or shelter-in-place requirements.
 - Once these steps are completed, the district shall follow the gifted identification process as prescribed by the *Regulations for Gifted Education 2013*.

GIFTED STUDENT PLACEMENT

If a student is ruled eligible for a gifted program for services during an extended school closure, how should they be placed in the program?

If a student is ruled eligible for a gifted program for services during an extended school closure, permission to place should be collected from the parents and the student should be served as all other identified gifted students in the district. This includes inclusion in telelearning environments and receipt of activities and assignments.

GIFTED PROGRAM MONITORING

How should we plan for gifted program monitoring?

Regularly scheduled gifted program monitoring will not be conducted during extended school closures. Once schools return to in person service models, monitoring visits will be scheduled/rescheduled with ample time given to districts to prepare for the visit.