

## *Gifted Education Programs*

# Hybrid and Virtual Program Guidance

### Program Purpose

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The Mississippi Gifted Education Act of 1989, as amended in 1993, mandates that each public school district within the state provide gifted education programs for intellectually gifted students in grades 2-6.

The purpose of this guidance is to ensure that gifted children are identified and offered an appropriate education based upon their exceptional abilities. Because of their unusual capabilities, they require uniquely qualitatively different educational experiences not available in the regular classroom. These uniquely different programs are required to enable gifted students to realize their abilities and potential contributions to self and society.

### Considerations for Gifted Services and Programs

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- As a result of State Board of Education action taken in June 2020, school districts have flexibility in the delivery of instruction to students. For the 2020 – 2021 school year, districts will have three (3) options (or any combination thereof) to meet the one hundred eighty (180) teaching day requirement: Traditional Schedule, Hybrid Schedule, or Virtual Schedule.
- As a result of State Board of Education action taken in August 2020, the minimum required gifted programming is reduced from 240 to 150 minutes per week.
- Gifted program services must be scheduled and provided during the instructional / contractual day.
- Gifted program instruction must be based on mastery of the Outcomes for Gifted Education Programs 2017, to the greatest extent possible.
- Gifted program teacher schedules must be accurately reported in MSIS.
- Gifted program teachers may provide instruction or support for students not identified as gifted, as long as minimum program requirements are met for students in gifted programs.
- Gifted program teachers must have planning time equal to all general education personnel and must have assessment time as required to facilitate the gifted student identification process.
- The ratio of gifted students to gifted program teacher shall not exceed 60 students to 1 teacher.
- Gifted program services are to be provided in a resource room, if available.