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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of gifted education is to maximize the potential of gifted and talented learners by providing programs and services which match their unique characteristics and needs.

### We believe...

- The gifted have a right to an appropriate education grounded in the recognition of individual differences and unique learning needs.
- The gifted need a curriculum responsive to their individual learning rate, style, and complexity. The gifted learn best in an instructional environment that encourages and nurtures inquiry, flexibility, and critical and creative thinking.

### GOALS

The Challenge Program for Academically Gifted Students is designed to provide qualified students with opportunities to investigate, exchange ideas, and interact with peers through academic activities. Emphasis is placed on the following skill areas: research, speaking, writing, problem solving, group interaction, presentation of new learning, and evaluation. Each area is addressed through a scope and sequence of skills based on state goals for gifted learners and state standards for all learners. The goals of the academic program are:

- To support mastery of core areas of learning at a pace and depth appropriate for gifted and talented learners.
- To develop an understanding of the concepts, themes, and issues which are fundamental to the disciplines and an appreciation for interrelationships among the disciplines.
- To develop inquiry skills.
- To develop the skills of critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making.
- To develop proficiency in communicating abstract and complex ideas, relationships, and issues.

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## HOW DO STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM?

Students may be nominated for screening by a teacher, administrator, counselor, peer, or parent. Nominated students are screened using a state profile and must meet at least **2 of the 3 dimensions** identified under South Carolina guidelines for final placement in the program:

**DIMENSION A:** Aptitude—qualifying score of 93<sup>rd</sup> national age percentile or higher. Students attaining a composite score of 96 or higher qualify for the program.

**DIMENSION B:** Achievement—qualifying score of Exemplary on SC READY Math or English Language Arts or 94<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on a nationally-normed test (must be on most recent administration of the test).

**DIMENSION C:** Performance—advanced level on Project STAR assessment for entry into grades 3-6 or a GPA of 3.75 or better on a 4.0 GPA scale on core subjects from previous grade for entry into grades 7-12.

Nominated students will be screened in September and January. Census testing of all district second-graders in the fall on aptitude and achievement tests provides all students an opportunity to be screened for the gifted and talented program. Students who do not qualify based on these guidelines, may have other opportunities for re-testing within state and district policies.

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## CHARACTERISTICS OF GIFTED LEARNERS

Research has produced numerous lists of characteristics of gifted learners. Gifted students usually exhibit many, if not all, of these behaviors: A gifted student...

- ⇒ *uses advanced vocabulary.*
- ⇒ *uses effective in spoken and written communications.*
- ⇒ *has a wide range of interests or a heavy concentration on just one (which may change over time).*
- ⇒ *likes solving puzzles and problems.*
- ⇒ *tries to do things in different, unusual or imaginative ways.*
- ⇒ *shows a keen sense of humor.*
- ⇒ *recognizes relationships others may not recognize.*
- ⇒ *is very observant, curious, asks lots of questions.*
- ⇒ *is very much concerned with justice, right and wrong, good and bad.*
- ⇒ *may read before beginning school.*
- ⇒ *may question authority.*
- ⇒ *has a good memory.*
- ⇒ *takes risks.*
- ⇒ *may or may not be a high achiever.*



*Parent Request for Academic & Gifted Program Screening (PLEASE PRINT)*

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please screen my child in grade **3-8** for the Academic Gifted and Talented Program.\*

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please turn this form in to the school **guidance office** or mail to: Dean R. Laws-Bryant, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Clarendon School District 1, PO Box 38, Summerton, SC 29148

\* For this student to be screened in **September**, this form must reach the Coordinator's office **no later than August 24, 2018**.



Dean R. Laws-Bryant, Gifted & Talented Coordinator  
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What "Perfect" "Talented"  
"High Achiever" **does** "Possessing a special talent"  
**gifted** "Highly intelligent"  
"Prodigy" **actually** "Having exceptional intelligence"  
"Capable" "Clever" **mean?**  
"Adept" "An example to others" "Skilled"  
"Endowed with natural ability"

*Gifted and Talented  
Programs  
2018—2019*



**Clarendon School District One**  
PO BOX 38, Summerton, SC 29148  
Phone: (803) 485-2325

**GT**  
*Gifted & Talented*

Barbara Ragin Champagne, Superintendent  
Robert Collar, Assistant Superintendent  
Holness Samuels, Office of Instruction and Accountability

Dean R Laws-Bryant  
*Gifted and Talented Coordinator*