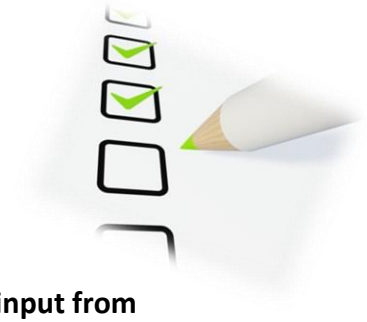
Identification Process



Stage 1: Informal Referral for Gifted

- Referral made by gifted facilitator, classroom teacher, or parent
- Gifted facilitator gathers informal input from regular educ. teacher and suggests interventions to begin in the classroom
- Gifted Screening Process
  - Review STAR test data
  - Assess performance on several higher-level activities administered by gifted facilitator
  - Review classroom performance, behaviors, and grades

Stage 2: Preassessment Meeting with Evaluation Team

- Team meets to decide if there is enough data to support a formal evaluation for gifted
- Interventions are reviewed and progress documented
- Paperwork is submitted to the special education director for final approval of a formal evaluation

Stage 3: Formal Evaluation

- Parents receive special education documents to sign to give permission/consent to test student
- Testing is conducted
  - Cognitive/Intelligence testing – must score 97%ile or higher
  - Achievement testing- must score 95%ile or higher

Stage 4: Postassessment Meeting with Evaluation Team

- Identification and eligibility is determined
- Consider needs beyond what regular education can provide (resources and/or instruction)
- Meets required percentiles on the formal testing

Definition of Gifted in Kansas

The Kansas State Department of Education defines gifted as:

> "Gifted" as defined in K.A.R. 91-40-1(cc) means performing or demonstrating the potential for performing at significantly higher levels of accomplishment in one or more academic fields due to intellectual ability, when compared to others of similar age, experience, and environment.

Characteristics of a gifted learner:

- Excellent memory
- Advanced vocabulary and complex sentence structure for age
- Persistent learner
- High level of critical thinking
- Higher level problem solver
- Quick learner
- Retains information with ease
- Thinking is abstract, complex, and logical
- Longer attention span with intense concentration
- Inquisitive
- Imaginative
- Thinks outside-the-box
- Creative thinker

Goals of the S.P.A.R.K. Program

- Identified students to have the opportunity to interact, create, and problem solve with like-ability peers
- Extend students higher level critical and creative thinking
- Extend students higher order thinking through projects
- Provide advanced project and research skills to extend the student's knowledge base

S.P.A.R.K. Curriculum for grades K-8

Creativity

- Spontaneous Problems
- S.T.E.M. projects
- Poetry
- Creative Story Writing
- Quote Reflections
- Blackline Drawings
- Perspective Drawing
- Human Figure Drawing
- Inventing
- Brainstorming
- Music as Art
- Create and Crack Secret Codes
- Team Drawings
- Creative Uses for Common Problems
- Creative Solutions to Common Problems
- Dance Choreography

Critical Thinking

- Brain Teasers
- Stories with Holes
- Logic Puzzles
- Wordies
- Clip Clue Puzzles
- Balance Benders
- Analogies
- Mysteries
- Dooriddles
- Word Benders
- Chess
- BreakoutEDU
- Trivia and Quiz Bowl Challenges
- Learning Styles Inventory
- Multiple Intelligences Inventory
- Storyboarding
- Current Social Issues (Stossel in the Classroom)
- It can't be true – but it is

Geography

- Where is Mrs. Leiker (famous landmark search)
- Amazing Race (50 states)
- Map and Population Analysis
- Land Survey System
- FHSU Speaker's Bureau
- Kansas Land and People

Spatial Thinking

- Figural Analogies
- Figural Sequencing
- Spatial Relations
- Visual Discrimination
- Origami
- Accurate Scale Models
- Scale of the Universe
- Solar System Model
- Time vs Distance
- Cosmology
- Very small to Very Large
- Snap Cube Problems
- 3-D Model Creation (Home design)

Research

- Semester long independent research projects based on Bloom's Taxonomy (6 mini-projects)
- Student selected topics
- Student created projects
- Use a variety of references
- Possible project ideas: posters, reports, graphs, experiments, Powerpoint slide shows, Venn Diagrams, dioramas, mobiles, videos, skits, 3-D models, timelines, movies
- Research presented upon completion to regular educ. Class
- Research authors from Quote reflection
- Incubation and egg hatching (without a shell)
- NASA Design Challenge (What floats your boat)

S.P.A.R.K.

Special Projects And Resources for Kids

For more information contact:

Hays West Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative

323 West 12th Street

Hays, KS 67601

Phone: (7875) 623-2400

Special Education Director: Raj Sharma

Gifted education in the Hays West Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative is provided through a program entitled S.P.A.R.K. This service is a special education service and therefore follows the special education process and state laws. If a student qualifies for gifted services, they are given the opportunity to attend the SPARK program. The COOP currently has 3 gifted facilitators to provide services to identified students. The program varies depending upon grade levels as follows:

Kdg. =1/2 day pull-out program
Grades 1-5 = one full day/ week pull-out program
Middle School = 2-3 class periods/ week
High School= 1 class period/week

Each student and the type of gifted service that the student receives is ultimately decided and agreed upon by the team of school personnel and parents, keeping in mind the student's best interest.

Math

- At least one year ahead math instruction on a variety of concepts
- Math Around the World Strategy Games
- Play Dough Economics
- Problem Solvers
- Algebraic Reasoning-Into the Unknown
- Math Quest Simulation (problem solving)
- Number Puzzles
- Online Khan Academy
- Challenge Math (Edward Zaccaro)
- Prodigy
- Binary and Hexadecimal Numbers
- 4-Square Math

Language Skills

- Advanced vocabulary and word use/etymology
- Vocabtest.com
- Vocabuzz
- Duolingo
- Debate and Public Speaking
- Collaborative Writing Projects

Thematic Units/Simulations

- Career Investigation & Job Shadowing
- Discovering Density
- Chemical Reactions/Secret Formulas
- Paper Towel Testing
- Crime Scene Investigations
- Electric Circuits
- Environmental Detectives
- Simple Machines w/ The Three Pigs
- Acid Rain
- Hot Air Balloons
- Egg Drop/Egg Packaging
- Written & Illustrated Short Story Writing
- Architecture & Home Design using Computer Aided Drafting
- Leaf Classification and Analysis
- Ancestry and Genealogy Project
- Genetics and DNA analysis
- Calendar design and analysis
- Hovercraft
- Blimps
- Rockets
- Foreign Language Study Unit
- Community-Interactive Group Projects
- Medical Professions
- Timelines – American History, World History, geographical time scale

Technology

- Video Editing (How-to Videos)
- Desktop Publishing and Online Magazines
- Computer Coding (Scratch, Code.org, Swift Playground)
- Computer Aided Drafting
- HTML programming
- Robotics