PATERSON CHARTER SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Gifted & Talented Education Program Handbook

PCSST

Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology

Est. 2002

www.PCSST.org

Introduction

Welcome to the PCSST Gifted and Talented Program! The New Jersey Department of Education requires that each school district provide services to meet the needs of students who have been identified as gifted and talented. Each school district must establish a process to identify students as gifted and talented using multiple measures. These students require modifications to their educational program if they are to achieve in accordance with their capabilities (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1).

Definition of Gifted and Talented Student:
Based on the N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1 “Gifted and talented student” means a student who possesses or demonstrates a high level of ability in one or more content areas when compared to his chronological peers in the school district and who requires modifications of his educational program if he is to achieve in accordance with his capabilities.

Identification of Gifted and Talented Students:
Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology (PCSST) shall make provisions for an ongoing kindergarten through grade 12 identification process for gifted and talented students that includes multiple measures in order to identify student strengths in various intellectual ability, creativity, or a specific academic area(s). A student shall not be required to meet all considered measures in order to be identified as gifted and talented. PCSST shall ensure equal access to a continuum of gifted and talented education services. The identification process shall include consideration of all students, including those who are English language learners and those with Individualized Education Plans or 504 plans

MISSION & IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

The mission of the Gifted and Talented Program of Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology is to provide enriching learning experiences and educational opportunities that challenge the gifted and talented students' interests, talents, strengths, and potential for creativity, higher-level thinking, independent learning, and leadership to become future leaders.

Identification Timeline

- **Nominations**: By May (send forms to Parents and Staff) and available year around
- **Screening and Review by GT Specialist**: June-September
- **GT Decisions**: September (*next school year*)

PARENT NOMINATION, TEACHER NOMINATION, TEACHER RATING SCALES

Parent Nomination Form, Teacher Nomination Form, and Teacher Rating Scales
PCSST has multiple measures in place that identify students eligible for the gifted and talented program. Parents/guardians who believe their child is performing well above grade level or demonstrating exceptional strengths or talents should complete the Parent Nomination Form and submit it to begin the identification process. Teachers who wish to nominate a student should complete the Teacher Nomination Form first, then follow up by completing the Teacher Rating Scale for that student.

Talent Nomination Process: Visual and Performing Arts, and Sports
Talent nominations follow the same process as academic nominations. Once nominations are submitted, rating scales will be completed by the specials teachers. Students recommended for superior creative, aesthetic, literary, visual/performing arts, and sports talent will be considered as a separate category. Evidence of talent will be required for a student to be considered for this part of the program, and a portfolio assessment will be required as part of the criteria.

Identification Selection Process & Crtieria Matrix

*Students must meet 3 of the 4 criteria listed above in order to be eligible for the Gifted and Talented Program.

NJSLA (Grades 3-9)- Must score "Exceeded Expectations" in one or more subjects

Academic Criteria: Students with an outstanding academic achievement when compared with their chronological peers in the following standardized test.

MAP, DIBELS, NJSLA, NJGPA, IXL, SAT -Must score "High/Above Benchmark scores" for each domain/performance area in one or more tested subjects (Math, Reading, or Science)

Ability Criteria: Students with superior intellectual ability will be measured by the CogAT cognitive ability test & Naglieiri Assessment

-CogAT-Grades 4-12
-Naglieri Assessment K-3

Classroom Performance

A's & B's in all Core Subjects (No exceptions)

Teacher Input

Teacher Rating Scale Form

PCSST G&T IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

PCSST
Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology
Est. 2002

Central Office
196 W. Railway Ave. Paterson, NJ 07503
(973) 750-4401
www.pcsst.org

PCSST Gifted and Talented Program Identification Matrix Grades K-12

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Teacher: _____ **School Year:** _____

Assessment Criteria

Assessment Item	**Qualifying Criteria**	**Meets Criteria (✓)**
Standardized Assessment	Exceeding Expectations/Above Benchmark	
Select test used (check off):		
▫ DIBELS	Exceeding Expectations/Above Benchmark	
▫ NJSLA	Exceeding Expectations/Above Benchmark	
▫ MAP	Exceeding Expectations/Above Benchmark	
▫ NJGPA	Exceeding Expectations/Above Benchmark	
▫ SAT	Exceeding Expectations/Above Benchmark	
Report Card Grades	A's & B's in all Core Subjects	
Teacher Rating Scale	Meets Criteria	
CogAT	Stanine 7-9 (Full Battery)	
Naglieri	Score above 7-9 (Full Battery)	

PCSST
Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology
Est. 2002

Central Office
196 W. Railway Ave. Paterson, NJ 07503
(973) 750-4401
www.pcsst.org

Program Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for the Gifted and Talented Program, the student must meet **3 out of 4** of the following criteria:

1. **Standardized Assessment:** Score at "Exceeding Expectations" or "Above Benchmark" level on the appropriate grade-level assessment (Acadience, NJSLA, MAP, NJGPA, or IXL)
2. **Report Card:** Earn A's or B's in all four core subject areas
3. **Teacher Rating Scale:** Score at least 132 points or 85% or higher
4. **CogAT:** Achieve a Stanine score of 7, 8, or 9 (or 84% and above if using the screening form)

Final Decision

☐ **Qualified for Gifted and Talented Program**

☐ **Does Not Qualify at this time**

Comments: _____

Tiered Services for Gifted & Talented Students

- TIER 1 SERVICES
- TIER 2 SERVICES
- TIER 3 SERVICES

GT Services in the Classroom-1

Differentiation:
Content, Process, Product, Learning Environment
Flexible Grouping
Acceleration:
Curriculum Compacting
Honor Classes
AP Courses
Counseling

GT Services Beyond Classroom-2

Classes with GT Specialist
GT Club examples: Math Counts, Chess, Gifted Literacy Club, Crypto Club, Coding Club, Journalism, Debate /Public Speaking, Art/Design Club, Drama/Acting Club, and Entrepreneurship etc.
Workshops
GT Lunch/Breakfast Meetups
GT Student Luncheon
Parent Breakfasts
Field Trips/Camps
GT Recognitions
Guest Speakers

GT Extension Programs-3

Local/State National Competitions
STEM Challenges:
Robotics
Science Fair
Math Counts/Math Olympiads
Science Olympiads
Junior National Society (TBD)
National Honor Society

EXIT PROCESS

Students identified as gifted and talented will be continually monitored and annually re-assessed for the continuing appropriateness of services and/or curricular modifications as well as determine eligibility to continue receiving G&T programming services. Assessments will include student data, including relevant test results, classroom performance, discipline records, and feedback from teaching staff members and school administration educationally responsible for the student.

A student may be deemed ineligible to receive gifted and talented services and/or curricular modifications when:

-The student's performance records show a decline;

-The student does not meet the minimum eligibility criteria for gifted and talented programming and services;

-The student wishes to decline services and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) consents to withdrawal;

-The student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) requests to decline services.

-A recommendation to withdraw a student from the Gifted and Talented program may be made by the student's classroom teacher, the school administration, the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and, where appropriate, the student.

Final decision to withdraw a student from the Gifted and Talented program may be made by the Program Director.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Pursuant to the Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act, PCSST actively assists and supports professional development for teachers, educational services staff, and school leaders in the area of gifted and talented instruction.

Professional development opportunities are outlined below:

- All staff orientation, weeks in August, prior to school opening
- In-service days
- G&T support strategies in the classroom
- Strategies for supporting students beyond the classroom
- G&T identification strategies
- Counselors: working with and counseling G&T students
- Special education staff: twice-exceptional identification
- CCP Coaches: supporting classroom teachers in working with G&T students
- Participation in national G&T conferences participation sponsored by PCSST

G&T Resources Access

-National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC)
https://www.nagc.org/
- Pre-K – 12 G&T Standards
https://www.nagc.org/national-standards-in-gifted-and-talented-education
-NAGC Position Statements and White Papers
https://www.nagc.org/news/position-papers
https://www.nagc.org/resources
-The Association for the Gifted (CECTAG)
https://cectag.com/
-NJ Association of Gifted Children (NJAGC)
https://njagc.org/
-NAGC Supporting Twice-Exceptional Students Gifted and Learning Disabled: Twice-Exceptional (UConn)
https://nrcgt.uconn.edu/newsletters/spring984/
-NJAGC New Jersey Association for Gifted Children
https://njagc.org/the-law/
New Jersey Department of Education-Gifted & Talented
https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/programs/gifted/