



We believe in providing opportunities for students to develop gifted characteristics.

PCS Talent Development Program FAQ's

What is the Talent Development Program?

The Talent Development Program in Pinellas County Schools provides differentiated enrichment for students who have shown above-average abilities and talents but who are not currently identified as gifted and attend a school with a Talent Development Program.

What is the process for having my child considered for the Talent Development Program?

Students are identified to participate in the Talent Development Program at the beginning of the school year using criteria provided by the district gifted office. Currently, we use student's scores on the KBIT or NNAT Test (Gifted Characteristics) or the MAP Test (Academic Ability) to identify potential students. Schools also reserve the right to use a characteristics checklist to identify potential students whom the above two tests may have missed.

What information is available about the tests used to identify students for the Talent Development Program?

The NNAT (Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test) and the K-BIT (Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test) are what our district uses to screen students for gifted. Both tests measure problem solving and reasoning and are a good measure of potential giftedness. All first graders are administered the NNAT as part of our universal screening and additional students are screened by request. Students who score a 90% or higher on a gifted screening are referred for a formal IQ test with a licensed psychologist. MAP (Measures of Academic Performance) is used by our district to measure academic growth on grade level standards as compared to age-level peers. Students take the MAP test 2-3 times per year in elementary school.

If my child is identified for the Talent Development Program, what happens next?

Students recommended for the Talent Development Program will receive a letter that parents can sign and return, giving permission to be part of the program. Once in the Talent Development Program, they will leave their traditional classroom once per week (or every other week) for about 30 mins to go and work with other Talent Development students and the schools' gifted and talented teacher.

Is there a Talent Development Program in every school?

No. Schools that have fewer than 50 identified gifted students are eligible to implement a Talent Development Program. Click here to see which schools currently offer a Talent Development Program.

Who do I contact about the Talent Development program at the school?

Each school has a gifted teacher which you can find on your school's website. If you have any questions regarding the Talent Development Program at a specific school, s/he will be able to assist you.

What are the benefits of the Talent Development Program?

The Talent Development Program is designed to deliver differentiated and relevant curriculum to students in grades 2 - 5 to provide learning opportunities outside of the general education curriculum. This program exposes talented learners to gifted and talented pedagogy in order to increase critical thinking skills. It is an opportunity to grow gifted characteristics in students.

What curriculum does the Talent Development Program use?

Our Talent Development Programs use a STEM curriculum that integrates engaging reading, writing and mathematics standards. We chose to focus on Project Based Learning inside of STEM because it is engaging and provides natural opportunity for critical and creative thinking, problem solving and leadership skills. We believe these are skills and areas of talent that our students will use in future careers. Our STEM curriculum is standards based and includes projects focused on the following:

- Communicate Effectively
- Focus on Inquiry and Collaboration
- Understand Multiple Content Areas
- Use Technology, Math and Reasoning,
- Exploring Contemporary Issues
- Record and Analyze Data
- Investigate Change Over Time
- Use Computer Models or Simulations
- Use and Analyze Models
- Construct and Explain Systems

Is my child in gifted if they are part of the Talent Development Program?

No. Florida has explicit criteria for a student to be identified as gifted. We know that there are many students who may not meet the state's criteria for gifted identification but who have shown above average abilities and gifted characteristics and this program is designed to give them access to a gifted teacher, gifted pedagogy, and an opportunity to grow their talents.