

**Recommendations from AE Task Force
December 16, 2015**

Area 1: Goals, Objectives, Philosophy and Vision

Adopt Vision/Mission Statement:

Neshaminy School District gifted instruction cultivates a community of learners engaged in enrichment activities that nurture academic growth. Students develop enhanced skills and knowledge through experiences designed to allow them to achieve their potential and become meaningful contributors in our ever changing global society.

Goals/Objectives:

- *NSD offers opportunities for academic interaction with like ability peers as well as the entire school community*
- *NSD reaffirms that gifted education is a high priority*
- *NSD will use multiple criteria to identify students with advanced skills and abilities (according to Chapter 16) for the purpose of extending services/opportunities that will meet their unique educational needs.*
- *NSD will provide an array of service options (continuum) aligned to the district's mission statement which supports individual growth at varying levels of abilities, needs, interest and pacing*
- *NSD will meet the needs of gifted students in the total school program by working with classroom teachers to assess, plan to carryout differentiated instruction and evaluate outcomes*
- *NSD will acquire and provide ongoing professional development opportunities based on best practice to effectively meet the social, emotional and intellectual needs of the gifted learner.*

Area 2: Screening, Identification, and Placement

- Develop a universal screening rubric
- Implementation of a follow-up multiple criteria assessment screening tool prior to psych referral
- Integrate and summarize all of the Screening items into a multiple criteria evaluation score sheet
- Publish a detailed flow chart that includes alternate sources of entry into the process
- In concert with technology and Student Achievement develop an extract/reporting of the measures relevant to the screener to more easily facilitate the universal screening process- **Modified to : Provide directions for most efficient way to use Performance Plus (district data management system) to facilitate identification of students during the universal screening process**

Area 3: Communication

- Assign a district level administrator to provide administrative oversight of the program
- Create a communication plan that includes:
 - Use district school, and teacher web pages for communication of Academic Enrichment Process Flow Chart
 - Use district, school, and teacher web pages to communicate curriculum, Chapter 16 guidelines, screening, identification guidelines, and AE resources
 - Develop a calendar with back to school, open house and parent meetings
- Establish procedure for communication between grade span teachers during transition years (4th to 5th and 8th to 9th grades)

Area 4: Resources & Technology

- Establish an Instructional Technology Specialist for K-12 Modified to : Identify CI and A Supervisor responsible for ensuring assessment, implementation and evaluation of Instructional Technology resources to meet the needs of AE students
- Provide access to appropriate technology in general education and Academic Enrichment classrooms to enhance differentiation and facilitate higher levels of learning for gifted students

Area 5: Staff Development

- Identify district level person responsible for overseeing implementation of AE Professional Development Plan
- Plan professional development for all teachers on topics including:
 - Chapter 16 and Chapter 4
 - Characteristics/needs of gifted learners
 - Best practices
 - Differentiation
 - Project based learning
 - Integration of technology within instructional practices
 - Student engagement
 - Lesson design
- Budget for AE teachers to attend conferences to meet the learning needs of gifted learners
- Establish a mentor program for new teachers
- Provide opportunities for collaboration among AE teachers
- Provide professional development on the end to end screening, identification and placement process
- Provide professional development on the role of building level data meetings in the placement process

Area 6: Curriculum/Integration

- Revise AE curriculum to include more elaborate, complex and in-depth study of major ideas, key concepts, themes while integrating knowledge within and across disciplines
- Establish acceleration guidelines
- Develop special designed instruction, based on student GIEP that includes content, process, product, and learning environment related to specific student strengths