

Instruction

Program for Exceptionally Gifted Students (PEGS)

The St. Louis Regional Program for Exceptionally Gifted Students (PEGS) is one of curricular acceleration for the exceptionally gifted child. The PEGS curriculum allows for the development of student strengths and interests in original independent investigations. This emphasis is based on the need for students with exceptional abilities to pursue areas of intense personal interest to them.

The students enrolled in PEGS must be able to progress through a differentiated curriculum plan by using multiple texts, accelerated content, real life strategies, creative production and high level thinking skills. The curriculum is compacted or compressed to assure that basic skills are mastered while at the same time, enabling students to be engaged in an investigation of a topic, issue, or problem with an emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving. Thus, the student must possess the characteristics of being a self-initiator and independent thinker in order to accomplish the curricular goals of the program.

Student Selection and Funding Process

The Student Selection and Funding Process is a three phase process as follows:

- Phase One:                District Criteria & Process
- Phase Two:                PEGS Criteria & Process
- Phase Three:              Approval & Funding Process

Phase One - District Criteria & Process

1.        Students who have been enrolled in the District for a minimum of two years will be eligible for screening in Phase One for consideration for recommendation for entry into PEGS.
2.        Parent/guardian must complete a District application form and return it to the Office of Pupil Personnel.
3.        Upon receipt of the application, a copy will be sent to the student's home, and school acknowledging receipt.

4. The student's teacher must complete a District PEGS Teacher Anecdotal Information form.
5. The student will be administered the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) assessment by a District guidance counselor, gifted education teacher or other qualified personnel if this was not already done as part of the identification process for the District's GATE Program. The student must obtain a total score of 140 on the WISC, the WASI or the WPPSI-III.
6. The parent/guardian will receive written notification whether or not the student has met all of the District's criteria.
7. If the student has successfully met the criteria, the District will give the parent the application packet prepared by the PEGS Program to complete and submit to the appropriate PEGS administrator.

#### Phase Two - PEGS Criteria & Process

1. The PEGS Program selection process consists of a matrix including I.Q., Teacher's Anecdotal Forms, Parent/Guardian Anecdotal Form and other indicators of exceptionally gifted behavior.
2. An educational intelligence test will be individually administered by the PEGS Advisory Board and approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This test is the Sanford Binet LM. The student must score within five points of the top of the scale, appropriate to the child's chronological and mental ages. This test is a major part of the PEGS student selection process.
3. Having successfully completed steps one and two, the applicant and his/her parents/guardians will be interviewed by PEGS Advisory Board members.
4. The PEGS administrator and the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and the Administrator assigned to Pupil Personnel will convene a staffing to review the information and findings for students who have met all of the District and PEGS criteria.

Phase Three - Approval & Funding Process

1. Final approval of District students for participation in PEGS for which District funding will provide support, in whole or in any part, will be made by the Superintendent of Schools on the recommendation of the PEGS Administrator and the Director of Pupil Personnel.

Parents/guardians will receive written notification of the District's decision.

2. For each student approved by the Superintendent of Schools and the PEGS Advisory Board for participation in the program, an Agreement for Services Contract and the Intent to Participate Form will be completed and signed by the Superintendent of Schools.
3. The District will pay to the PEGS Program a maximum tuition rate for a maximum of three participating students. If more than three students are approved for participation, the amount will be divided equally among the participating students and their parents/guardians will be responsible for payment of the remaining tuition balance to the PEGS Program

Exception: The District will make the maximum tuition payment for students admitted to PEGS whose families qualify for the free and reduced lunch income guidelines. If payment is made for free/reduced qualifying student(s), the amount remaining from the District annual maximum will be divided equally among other non free/reduced lunch participating students; and their parents/guardians will be responsible for payment of the remaining tuition balance to the PEGS Program.

05/06/08

Revised: June 5, 2008  
Revised: September 4, 2003  
Revised: September 19, 2002  
Approved: February 3, 2000  
University City School Board