



PCS Talent Development Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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.

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

Students are identified for the Talent Development Program at the beginning of the school year using criteria provided by the district gifted office. Currently, we use student scores on gifted screening tools (see details below) or the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) assessment to identify potential students. Schools also reserve the right to use a characteristics checklist to identify students the tests may have missed.

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

Our district uses the NNAT (Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test) and K-BIT (Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test) to screen students for the gifted program. 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 program, 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. Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is used by our district to measure academic growth on grade level standards. Students took the FAST three times last school year.

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

Recommended students will receive an informational letter that parents can fill out and return, giving information about their student. Once placed, students will leave their traditional classrooms once per week for about 30 minutes to work with other Talent Development students and the school's gifted and talented teacher.

Does every school offer a Talent Development Program?

Every elementary school has the opportunity to offer talent development programming depending on their gifted enrollment.

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

Each school has a gifted teacher; you can find his or her contact information by calling the school office or visiting your school's website.

What are the benefits of the Talent Development Program?

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

What curriculum does the Talent Development Program use?

Our Talent Development Program uses a STEM curriculum that integrates engaging reading, writing and mathematics activities. This project-based learning approach provides natural opportunities for critical and creative thinking, problem-solving and leadership development – skills necessary for workplace success in the 21st century.

Is my child in Gifted if he or she is part of the Talent Development Program?

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