

# Gifted

The state of Alabama identified gifted students as those who perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment. These students require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Students possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

Madison City Schools affirms that students from all backgrounds must be given opportunities to develop to the fullest extent of their ability. We accept the premise that there are students whose above average ability, creativity, and task commitment require a variety of special provisions to meet their educational needs.

Madison City Schools houses a program for gifted students in every elementary and middle school. Any teacher or parent who has knowledge about a child, including the student himself, can refer an individual student for the Talent Pool by contacting verbally, or in writing, either the classroom teacher, or the Enrichment Specialist at the local school. For more information, parents may contact the Enrichment Specialist at their local school, or contact the Director of Instruction at (256) 464-8370.

In cases of Talent Pool referral, the LEA considers multiple criteria, including information in the areas of aptitude, behavioral characteristics, and performance indicators to determine eligibility for services. Once this data is collected, it is scored using a predetermined ranking system and entered into a system-wide matrix to determine eligibility.

## **Alternate Pathway into Talent Pool:**

Sometimes a student has been referred for Talent Pool but does not qualify on the matrix. If a student has two or more strong indicators on the matrix, or is in a population that is underrepresented\* in the city's Talent Pool program, the student may be considered for probationary inclusion. He/she may participate in Talent Pool for an entire semester on a probationary basis, with the goal of producing either an exceptional product or behavior based on his/her activities in Talent Pool.

*\* Due to the Lee v. Macon mandate of 1996*