

York Region District School Board

Gifted Program Information Night

Inspire Learning!

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Gifted Assessment
- Characteristics of the Gifted Learner
- Program Description
- Placement Options
- IPRC Process
- Transportation
- Important Dates, Timelines and Supports
- Questions

Gifted Assessment

- How do you know my child met the criteria?

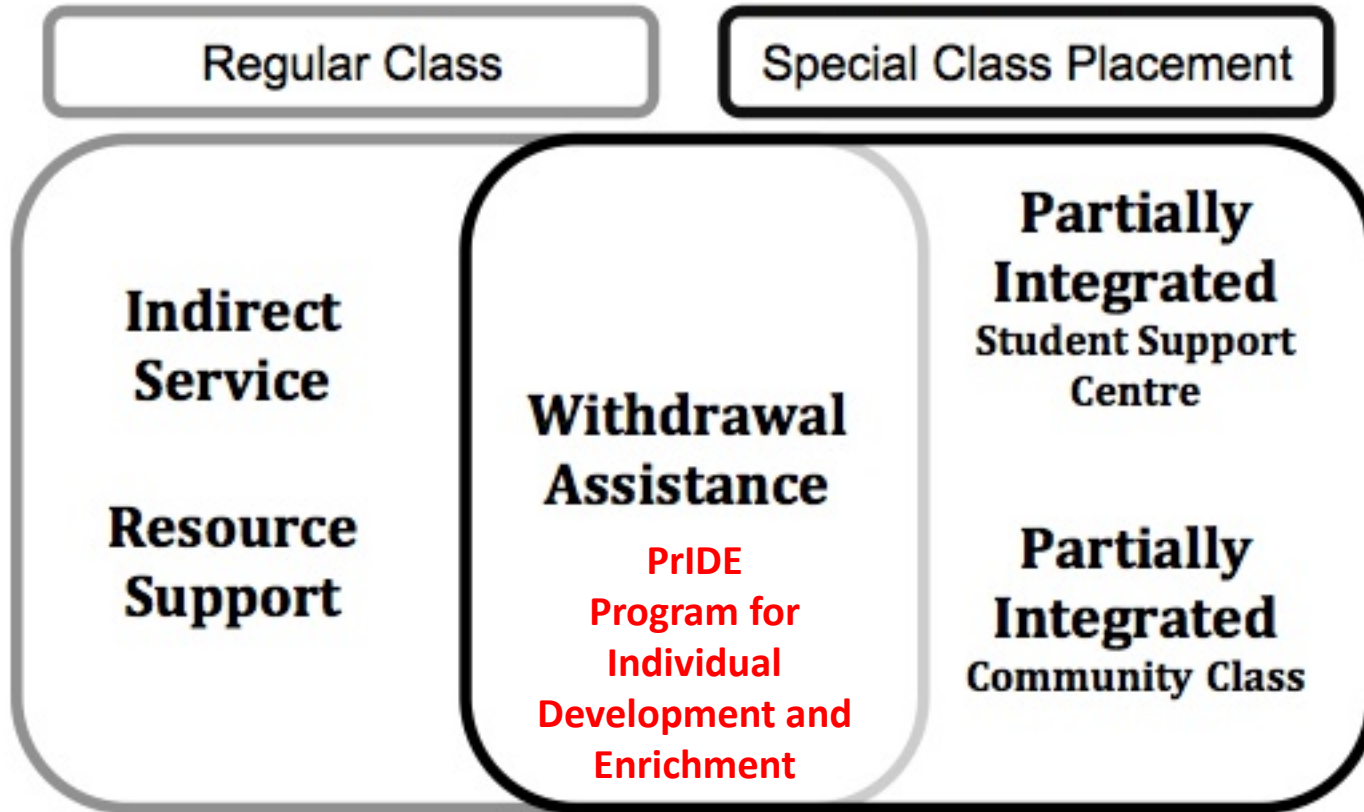


An exceptional child is defined as:

“a pupil whose behavioural, communication, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities are such that he or she is considered to need placement in a special education program by committee.”



Possible Placements



Definition

Giftedness is defined as “an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability that requires differentiated learning experiences of a depth and breadth beyond those normally provided in the regular school program to satisfy the level of educational potential indicated.”

Ministry of Education and Training

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>

Characteristics of the Gifted Learner

- Advanced cognitive ability
- Intellectual curiosity
- Sensitivity and creativity
- Motivation
- Advanced affective capacity



Program

The gifted program is based on the Ontario Curriculum. In order to meet the learning strengths, interests and needs of the gifted learner, the program is differentiated by:

- ✓ Depth
- ✓ Breadth
- ✓ Pace
- ✓ Kind

Elements of the Partially Integrated Core Gifted Program

- There may be combined grades in the gifted program
- York Region District School Board does not accelerate students
- Curriculum is based on provincial curriculum by grade level which is differentiated to meet the needs of the students in the class



Elements of the Partially Integrated Core Gifted Program

The Ontario Curriculum is differentiated for gifted students in order to:

1. Ensure that the expected level of achievement is demonstrated
2. Provide learning experiences at an appropriate cognitive level
3. Provide students with the learning and thinking tools to allow them to maximize their learning potential
4. Match instruction and environment with student learning styles

What Specific Skills are Taught in the Gifted Program?

- **Thinking Skills:** Creative Thinking, Critical Thinking, Bloom's Taxonomy (knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation)
- **Independent Study:** Inquiry/research and decision-making processes to pursue an area of study which extends learning of a class based theme or an area of personal interest


What Specific Skills are Taught in the Gifted Program?

- **Negotiated Learning:** Students participate in the process of cooperative planning of learning activities and products which demonstrate learning of overall and specific expectations
- **Social Emotional Domain:** Students understand their own academic, social and emotional strengths and needs and use them to set personal goals

Inquiry Approach and Research Skills in both PrIDE and Partially Integrated

Focus on inquiry as process for:

- ✓ exploring, developing, and applying understanding of a concept or big idea (teaching *through* problem solving);
- ✓ guiding students through the development of inquiry or problem-solving processes and strategies (teaching *about* problem solving) and
- ✓ connecting and integrating ideas across the curriculum.



Elements of the PrIDE Program

One day a week with a focus on:

- ✓ Thinking Skills
- ✓ Inquiry Based Independent Study
- ✓ Research Skills

PrIDE Entry Points

- ✓ There are 2 entry points to the PrIDE program during the school year: The beginning of September and beginning of February.

If my child is in French Immersion, can he/she attend a Gifted Program?

French Immersion is an optional program available to all children; however, parents should be aware that they must decide if they wish their son or daughter to:

- remain in the FI program;
- return to their community school (English Program) for access to the PRIDE program; or
- be placed in the Partially Integrated Core Gifted program at a designated school.



Myths

- There will be more homework in the gifted program.
- A learner who is gifted should expect to receive Level 4 (A) in all subjects.
- A learner who is gifted is smarter than others in the school.
- A learner who is gifted experiences greater success only when surrounded by other learners who are gifted.
- The learner who is gifted should be accelerating to higher grade level work.



Summary

1. Your child has been identified as gifted.
 2. You have 3 choices:
 - a. Remain at in the existing program/school with or without a gifted identification
 - b. Part-time 1 day PrIDE program (for students in English program only)
 - c. Fulltime Gifted program at designated Community Class school.
- So what happens next.....



Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC)

In accordance with Regulation 181/98 the IPRC:

- ✓ decides if the student is exceptional
- ✓ decides the placement
- ✓ identifies the category and definition of the exceptionality
- ✓ describes the student's strengths and needs

IPRC Review

- ✓ Must be held at least once in each school year
- ✓ Parents may dispense with the annual review
- ✓ The student's progress is considered with respect to his/her IEP



Individual Education Plan (IEP)

- ✓ Required for all students identified by an IPRC as exceptional
- ✓ Must be developed in consultation with parents
- ✓ Must be developed within 30 days of placement into the program
- ✓ Parents must receive a copy
- ✓ Is included in the OSR



IEP

IEPs must include:

- ✓ specific educational expectations for the student
- ✓ an outline of the special education program and services
- ✓ a statement of the methods of reviewing progress



Transportation

- ✓ Bussing is provided to **BOTH** the Partially Integrated **Core Gifted** and PrIDE Programs.
- ✓ After (insert date), parents can confirm transportation arrangements by accessing the Student Transportation Services website at www.schoolbuscity.com. This will provide you with the pick up/drop off times and locations.



Transportation

Bussing is provided in accordance with school board policy and will adhere to the following guidelines:

- ✓ Students who live the furthest from school often have the longest ride times
- ✓ In many situations, students can experience longer ride times to and from school than students in the regular program



Transportation

- ✓ Ride times will not exceed 60 minutes unless under exceptional circumstances
- ✓ All students will be assigned to a centrally designated corner bus stop
- ✓ Elementary students can be expected to walk up to 400 metres to a central bus stop location

Transitioning Students Identified as Gifted to Identified Programs

- ✓ Open and honest discussion related to students moving from home school
- ✓ Period of adjustment in new school/program
- ✓ Students may experience normal anxiety related to change in environment
- ✓ Resources are available to support families

Supports and Information

- Association for Bright Children
www.abcontario.ca
- School Principal
- Student Services Coordinator

ABC Ontario



For more information, please visit:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/SpecEd/Pages/default.aspx>



Important Dates

- ✓ By **no later than March 11, 2015** please notify home school of your placement request.
- ✓ IPRC's for partially integrated programs will be held at the gifted school location and should be held no later than the end of April.
- ✓ IPRC's for students choosing either PrIDE* or regular home school will take place at the home school.

*PrIDE IPRC's will also be held no later than mid-April.

Questions?

