Gifted Education Students: A Look at Student Count and Supplemental Funding

As Colorado’s PK-12 student population grew by 11,000 students between 2015-16 and 2017-18, the number of students in Gifted education programs fell by about 1,600 students. In Colorado, about 7% of students qualify for gifted education services. Areas of giftedness: Specific Academic Aptitude; Creative or Productive Thinking; Leadership Abilities; Visual Arts; Performing Arts; Musical, Drama Psychomotor Ability.

Per Pupil Funding for gifted students continues to be below 2009-10 funding.
Gifted Education: A Look at State and District Funding

In 2015-16, the state funding share of Gifted Education was 31% ($9.7M). The district funded about 69% ($22M), the state, about 31%.$

“All administrative units are required to identify and provide services to gifted students. The extent of gifted education programming is dependent upon local resources and State supplemental funds.”

Understanding School Finance and Categorical Funding (July 2017), CDE, pg 13.

Criteria for Determining Exceptional Ability (Giftedness) or Talent Pool: For each category of giftedness: 95 percentile or above on a standardized nationally normed test or observation tool, or a rating on a performance assessment that indicates exceptionality/distinguished compared to age mates. Not meeting criteria on a single assessment tool shall not prevent further data collection or consideration for identification, if other indicators suggest exceptional potential as observed in a body of evidence. Criteria for screening assessments is a score range less than the 95-percentile ranking or results on observation/performance assessment tools as determined by the AU to determine referrals, further data collection and observation, and/or formation of student talent pools. CDE Rules for the Administration of Exceptional Children’s Education Act ICCR 301-8

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1 JBC Education Briefing Document, Table B, December 2017