

Questions to Ask

Before leaving your current district, please make sure you have an updated copy of your child's Advanced Learning Plan to hand carry to your new school! If you do not have a copy, please request one from your child's school. It is extremely helpful to request your school write a cover letter to explain how your child was identified and the type of programming services your child was receiving.

When you arrive at your new school, request to speak to the principal or the person who oversees gifted programming. Provide them with the gifted documents you brought from your previous school. Here are some questions you may want to ask:

1. Does your state participate in the Interstate Compact Agreement?
2. Does your state honor gifted identification from a previous state?
3. What are your criteria for gifted identification? By examining the data from my child's ALP, will he/she qualify for gifted in your district?
4. What type of programming will be provided to my child beyond regular grade-level curriculum/expectations?
5. What type of enrichment, after-school programming, contests, or camps do you provide for gifted students?
6. Will my child have a formal education plan and how will I be involved in creating this plan?
7. How long will it be before my child begins receiving gifted services?
8. What further assessments may need to be administered?

GT Information

Our school district is committed to supporting you and your child with your upcoming move. If your new school should have any questions about your child's gifted identification or programming plan, please don't hesitate to have the school contact our building gifted representatives or the district coordinator.

Name: _____

Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Resources

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children—<http://www.mic3.net/>

National Association of Gifted Children—
<http://www.nagc.org/>

American Association for Gifted Children—
<http://www.aagc.org/>

Colorado Department of Education: Gifted Education—
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/index.htm>

Gifted

Military

&

Moving



Fort Carson Military Education Task Force

It's Time to PCS

A military career is an honorable and adventurous profession; however, being military means you will be moving. Statistics show that the average military child will move six to nine times between kindergarten and twelfth grade. We know each time a military child must leave one school and enter another, the child endures feelings of concern, sadness, anxiety, and confusion. There are new friends to make, new rules to learn, and often new classes and grade-level expectations that are required. We recognize these moves make our children more resilient and provide opportunities to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. However, the moves can be confusing to a child when they receive specific services and programming in one state, and once they move, find the same educational services can no longer be provided.

While attending a school in the Pikes Peak region, your child was identified as a Gifted Learner. Your child might have been previously identified in another state or district, or perhaps this was your child's first identification. We understand a military move for all children is difficult, but it can be especially challenging for our gifted students. This brochure has been designed to support you and your gifted child with your upcoming transfer.

Guidelines Around Gifted

Unlike special education, identifying and serving gifted students is not a federal law. For gifted learners, all program and service decisions are made at the state and/or local level. In the absence of federal minimum standards, there is wide variability between states, and in many cases, an even greater inequity between districts in the same state when it comes to gifted identification and services. Sadly, the federal government allocates only 3 cents of every \$100 of educational spending to gifted children. Therefore, it has been left up to each state's discretion on how to meet the needs of our most advanced learners. Some states regard gifted students in the same way they do special education students. The state sets criteria that will be used for gifted education and a formal plan, called an Individualized Education Program (IEP), is created for the identified student. Other states write educational plans for gifted students; however, they vary in name, content, and thoroughness. In Colorado, gifted students have an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP). Sadly, some states do not require a gifted education plan, nor is gifted education mandated by legislation. The result is a mismatched collection of inconsistencies in gifted identification and programming throughout the United States. With this in mind, parents must know the important questions to ask at a new school.

Interstate Compact Agreement

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children created legislation to ease school-to-school transfers for military children. The intent of the Compact, signed by 40 states, is to minimize the disruption in education when a military child is forced to move as a result of a transfer or deployment. Parents of gifted students should be familiar with the section on **Placement and Attendance**. The Compact states when a gifted student moves, the new school should place the student in the same or similar courses he/she was taking in the previous school and consider the child a gifted student. However, the Compact allows the new school to subsequently perform an evaluation to ensure the child is placed and identified appropriately according to the new school's requirements.

Advocate for your child! If your new district requires your child to be retested and it will be several months before testing can occur, request your child receive gifted services or be placed in the advanced class while waiting for testing to occur. Too many times our gifted students must wait several months or even a full year before being placed in the programming options they need and deserve. Because programming for gifted students varies dramatically between districts, a new school may not be able to replicate the same level of services or the same type of classes or programs your child once received.