



Gifted Education

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Greetings! Making the decision to submit a Gateway Interest Form can be a bit overwhelming. We would like to provide you with some assistance and information to support your decision process.

The Gateway Interest form requests 833 Gifted Education staff to review your child's learning environment needs for the upcoming school year. Please note that submitting a Gateway Interest Form **does not** guarantee Gateway as a recommended learning environment for your child. The Gateway Interest Form found on the 833 Gifted Education website.

Essential background information for all parents:

- *The family of a student who has been identified as a gifted learner in District 833 is able to submit a Gateway Interest Form by **4:00 p.m. on January 15th, 2021.***
- *Gateway is a Program-Within-A-School which is one gifted programming option in upper Elementary for serving highly gifted learners in District 833. Please see the 833 Gifted Education Website for more information about the Current School Gifted Cluster Classrooms in the upper Elementary available at all 833 Elementary schools.*
- All District 833 neighborhood schools and gifted cluster teachers, including Gateway program teachers, are committed to further developing and deepening instruction, which supports growth in our diverse population of gifted learners. 833 Gifted Education staff is involved in a continuous improvement process to ensure increased access to gifted education training for teachers and knowledge of gifted learners.
- *Not all gifted students thrive in a Program-Within-A-School structure. Your decision is best based on your child's specific learning styles and developmental needs.*

Below are parent indicators of some things to look at when deciding whether or not to submit a Gateway Interest Form:

Parent Indicator: *Does your child prefer a small cohort of classmates who attend school together for multiple years or does your child excel in a larger cohort of classmates, classes and school with opportunities to meet many new classmates and idea-mates?*

- a. Gifted education services at Gateway for 2021-22 includes two classrooms in fourth and fifth grade, with the same students in class together through grades 4 and 5.
- b. Gifted education services at all elementary schools includes 1-5 cluster classrooms per grade of the 2-7 total classrooms at each grade level, with new class lists prepared for each school year.

Parent Indicator: How would a school change impact your child and your family, the family schedule and transportation logistics?

- Each family has unique schedule and logistical needs based on family makeup, impact on siblings' school schedules, etc.
- Your child's level of comfort and flexibility in changing learning environments.
- Social needs and commitment to current friendships and ease in which your child develops relationships.
- Support structure for learning at your student's current school.

Use the [Elementary Levels of Service](#) and parent indicators above to assist you in having a personalized view of your child's unique needs in regard to submitting a Gateway Interest Form.

After considering the parent indicators, if you would like to submit a Gateway Interest Form for your child, please complete the form and submit it **by 4:00 p.m. on January 15th, 2021** using the link on the Gifted Education website at www.sowashco.org/GiftedEd.

You will receive a confirmation within 48 hours of receipt of your Gateway interest form. If you do not, please contact Eileen McElrath at emcelrat@sowashco.org (651) 425-6210 to make sure we have received your Gateway Interest Form.

I hope this has helped in making the decision of whether or not to submit a Gateway Interest Form for your child.

With Regards,

Eileen McElrath
Gifted Education Coordinator