**Division of Youth Services**

Gifted and Talented Program Plan

1. **Identification**

DYS will use a variety of methods to identify a student who would benefit by participating in Gifted and Talented, enrichment, course compacting, flex-pacing, or advanced/accelerated work. The following describe some of the methods we will utilize to identify students who need this educational service:

Assessment Results – including those administered at in-take, assessments done via Virtual Arkansas, Plato/Edmentum Exact Path Reports, Aspire Benchmark assessment results, observations, previous participation in GT, Pre-AP, or AP, and intelligent quotients via the Wechsler Intelligence Scale.

1. **Services/Program Options**

Every effort will be made to ensure that any student who has demonstrated exceptional abilities will be presented with advanced lessons that will challenge the student and allow him/her to work at an advanced pace. Some of the services we may provide are:

* Flex Assignments on Edmentum/Plato (Curriculum Compacting/Flex-pacing) Students work through existing Virtual Arkansas (VA) courses at an advanced pace, earning credits toward their high school diploma.
* Advanced courses are offered through VA (in cooperation with John Ashworth, Director of VA)
* Assistance in college and career preparation via Student Success/Transition Plans which are supported through the Naviance Program, vocational courses, job shadowing, resume building, mock interviews, etc.

1. **Curriculum**

Enrichment lessons and/or activities will be presented to students who need more challenging work. This can be done during the remediation/enrichment block. All teachers who are involved in working with the student will be notified that the child qualifies for GT services. Appropriate GT instructional strategies will be utilized, such as: tiered instruction, differentiation, student choice, multiple ways to show what you know, advanced graphic organizers, summarizing, research, etc.

1. **Parental Involvement**

Parents/guardians will be notified when a student has been identified as Gifted and Talented. Progress reports and report cards will indicate participation in GT. Student progress will be discussed during parent/teacher conferences which are held at least two times per year. *Due to COVID safety protocols, parent/teacher conferences may be conducted via virtual, online TEAMS or ZOOM sessions.*

1. **Community Involvement**

Each DYS facility has developed partnerships with local businesses, churches, and/or colleges in their area. Every effort will be made to maximum opportunities for advanced students to be involved in community events and projects. For example, a student identified as GT may be able to get concurrent credit via a local college. All ROP facilities are currently partnering with Adult Ed Centers of Arkansas to help students earn their GED. Harrisburg girls who expressed an interest in attending college partner with Crawley’s Ridge Community College. Dermott’s GED students work with personnel from Monticello while Mansfield students who are in the GED track work with personnel from Fort Smith.

1. **Evaluation and Monitoring**

Lori Altschul, Assistant Superintendent of Education for DYS, will be responsible for overseeing the GT identification process, providing teachers with meaningful professional development regarding effective GT instructional strategies. Ms. Altschul is licensed to teach GT and also is a licensed GT Program Administrator.