

**I. POLICY**

Pupils and the public of Independent School District 831 are benefited when the Forest Lake Area Schools recognize and accommodate to individual differences. When pupils possess outstanding gifts or talents, the benefits to the individual and society are maximized when such attributes are enhanced and developed. No less than 5% of the children in District 831 shall be identified by the professional staff as high potential: gifted and talented.

**II. DEFINITION**

- A. High potential children are those who by virtue of outstanding abilities are capable of high performance. These are children whose potentialities can be realized through differentiated educational programs and/or services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program. Children capable of high performance include those with demonstrated achievement or potential ability in any of the following areas, singly or in combination:
1. General intellectual ability.
  2. Specific academic aptitude.
  3. Creative or productive thinking.
  4. Leadership ability.
  5. Visual and performing arts.
- B. Forest Lake Area Schools will use a variety of measures to identify high potential students. Such measures include but are not limited to one or more of the following:
1. Achievement of students at or above the 95th percentile on an appropriate standardized measure. Standardized instruments shall not discriminate with respect to the ethnic or cultural backgrounds of pupils in Minnesota. The Baldwin Identification Matrix will be utilized in totality or in part, dependent upon the intents and purposes of the particular program.
  2. Teacher recommendations, particularly where a standardized test is not available or when available tests are, in the opinion of the School District, an inadequate measure of the pupil's ability.
  3. Parent recommendations.

4. Student recommendations (either self or peer selection).
5. Demonstrated performance.

III. PROGRAMS

Forest Lake Area Schools will provide appropriate educational programming for the benefit of such pupils.

- A. District 831 is to adopt plans to be filed with and approved by the Commissioner which shall include differential programming for each high potential pupil from kindergarten through twelfth grade.
- B. For a plan to be approved, the differential programming may include, but shall not be limited to:
  1. The utilization of community personnel, higher education systems and organizations to work with high potential pupils.
  2. Release from class hours to work on special projects.
  3. Field trips and seminars.
  4. The provision of special classes.
  5. Individualized enrichment in the regular classroom.
- C. Differential programming shall be an integral part of the total programming of the District.
  1. District 831 may enter into cooperative agreements with other school districts, organizations, cooperative service units or educational instructions to encourage and develop programs for high potential students.
  2. When a program for high potential pupils is adopted, District 831 shall make every effort to assure that the composition of the program reflects the composition of the District pupil population as a whole as to race, sex and ethnic background. District 831 will meet the requirements of the Minnesota Human Rights Regulations.

ADOPTED: 9/7/76