

# **Questions and Answers for Gifted Resource Teachers**

## **Regarding Changes in Programs for Gifted Students**

2000-2001

### ***What changes are planned for DoDEA Gifted Education?***

A new regulation has been issued for DoDEA Programs for the Gifted. The regulation cancels DS Manual 2590.2, "Schoolwide Enrichment Guide." It also established policies and assigns responsibilities for the development and delivery of educational services for students identified as gifted in the DoDEA schools.

### ***How does the regulation define giftedness?***

The regulation uses the federal definition of giftedness as a descriptor for those students with outstanding talent who perform or show the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment.

### ***What does the regulation require?***

The regulation specifies that identified gifted students shall experience a program that assesses their giftedness and offers appropriately differentiated learning experiences.

### ***How will the regulation be implemented?***

A procedural manual for identification has been developed. The manual specifies steps in the identification process, guidelines for the local school Gifted Review Committee, and tools for assessment, determination of eligibility, and record keeping.

### ***Who serves on the Gifted Review Committee?***

The school principal appoints a standing committee of at least three members knowledgeable in gifted education. The membership includes an administrator or designee, a counselor, and a teacher. Additional members include those with information about the students and their needs.

***What will be my role in the identification process?***

As the staff professional trained in gifted education, you will be asked to assist the principal in facilitating the implementation of the new identification procedures. You may be asked to lead the Gifted Review Committee. In addition, your expertise in observing gifted students and understanding how they may demonstrate their strengths will be important in the identification process.

Through the identification process, we expect to find students who may be expressing their gifts in both traditional and non-traditional ways. Communicating with school personnel and parents about the nature and needs of gifted students is more important than ever.

***Who can provide assistance in implementing new identification procedures?***

Help is available at headquarters. Janice Robbins, coordinator, gifted education, will respond to questions, assist with staff development plans, and provide general support for districts and schools. She can be reached at [jrobbins@hq.odedodea.edu](mailto:jrobbins@hq.odedodea.edu) or 703-696-7652 ext. 1923.

***What does the regulation require regarding programming for gifted students?***

Regulation 2590.1 specifies that each school in the district offers gifted students appropriate education opportunities. Schools must provide varied and challenging learning activities matched to the needs and talents of these learners. Differentiated learning experiences adjust content, strategies, and expectations of student performance.

***How will programming for identified students be defined?***

During the 2000-2001 school year part II of the procedural manual for gifted education will be developed. This part of the manual will provide a framework for gifted education services to be offered by local schools. Options for service delivery and models for differentiation will be presented. Current DoDEA curriculum standards will form the basis for differentiation.

***When will new program options for gifted students begin?***

Implementation of the program options will begin during the 2001-2002 school year. Training in program models and curriculum differentiation will begin during the summer of 2001 and will continue into the 2001-2002 school year.