

Programming for Intellectually Gifted Students

Edmonton Public Schools

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Background Information

- previous programming offerings
- review and recommendations
- approval of initiatives and new programs





Initiatives and Action Plan

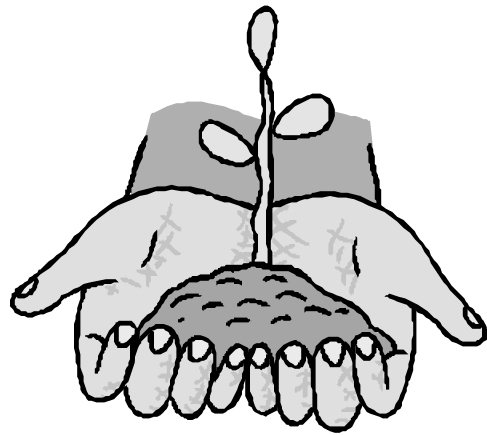
Initiatives

- support identification
- provide programming opportunities
- endorse best practices
- enhance continuity
- acknowledge and support staff efforts

Action Plan

- district supported staff training
- identification process
- new programs
- new research-based program guides

Changes for 2004-2005



Establishment of:

- elementary Challenge Program (Lynnwood, York, Westbrook)
- elementary and junior high Extensions Program
- (junior high Academic Challenge Programs continue unaltered, review of emerging programs)

Continuing in 2004-2005

Programming supports at no cost to schools:

- teacher guides
- staff training, professional development
- opportunities for teachers to work together



Challenge Program

- enriched, challenging, appropriately paced educational programming for bright, high-achieving elementary students
- students congregated at district centres





Challenge Eligibility

- based largely on achievement
- low-cost
- district centre assistance
- students coded “gifted and talented” automatically qualify
- parent/teacher checklists
- achievement results on standardized assessments
- results on district reading and writing assessments
- report card

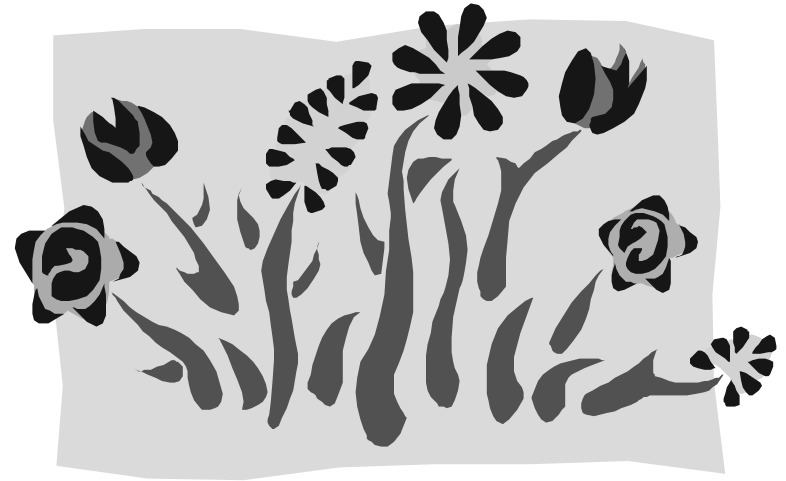


Challenge Programming at District Centres

- environment designed for bright learners (teacher facilitation, questioning, student choice, collaboration)
- class level differentiation (compacting and enriching regular curriculum)
- focus on problem solving, inquiry, research and thinking skills
- enhanced opportunities for thinking and learning, not just more work

Challenge Programming in Community Schools

- community schools may identify students for programming
- teacher guide
- inservices and professional development opportunities for community school staff



Extensions Program



- supports elementary and junior high students with extremely high intellectual ability who require substantially differentiated/individualized programming
- uneven profiles, excel or underachieve, may seem intense, complex, "out of synch," see world in a different way, feel heightened sense of justice



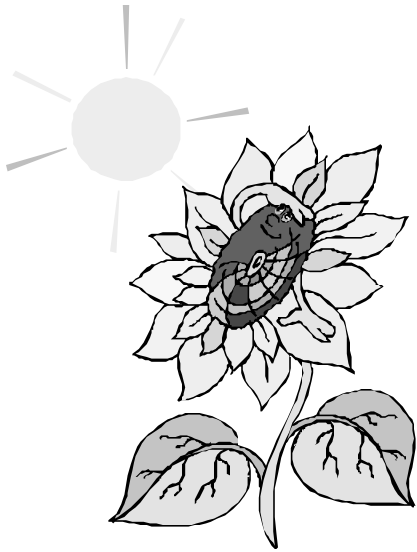
Extensions Eligibility

- individual intellectual assessment
- teacher and parent checklist and parent questionnaire
- school information on strengths, needs
- adjudicated by district expert (may employ other assessment techniques including interview, observation)

Extensions Programming

assists students to:

- achieve academically
- extend beyond curriculum in areas of strength
- understand their own challenges and develop coping strategies





Extensions Programming

- district centre program congregates students
- smaller class size
- highly differentiated programming
(acceleration, extension, counseling component, modified expectations)
- students may access other classes, levels or modes of instruction
- highly flexible programming

Promoting Awareness



- inservice and teacher guidebook components
- Best Practices Day: Challenging Bright Learners, 2004-2005
- Dr. Linda Silverman, 2005
April 28 (parent session)
April 29 (educator session)

In Summary...



Goal: to further support intellectually gifted students

- challenges
- choices
- changes