

## **PV Schools Self-contained Gifted Programs FAQs**

### **I am interested in the Self-contained Gifted Program. How do I register my child for that program?**

- Acceptance into the Self-contained Gifted Programs is by application only. Students must have the qualifying scores to apply. Please refer to the Gifted Self-contained Program Applications for complete requisites.
- The Gifted Self-contained program is designed for highly and profoundly gifted students who are high achieving and radically accelerated in their academics, working at least two grade levels beyond age peers. This constitutes a very small percentage of gifted students.
- We recommend that parents review the application and also the Arizona State Standards posted on the AZ Department of Education website. Look at the grade levels 2 – 3 years up. This will help you determine whether the Self-contained Gifted Program is a good fit for your child.

### **What are the qualifications for the Gifted & Talented Preschool, Kindergarten, and Self-contained Gifted 1st-6th grades?**

- To apply for Gifted & Talented Preschool students must have a 90%ile+ in one of the gifted identification areas of verbal, quantitative and non-verbal.
- Students applying for the Gifted & Talented Kindergarten must have a 97%ile+ in one of the gifted identification areas of verbal, quantitative and non-verbal or an IQ of 128+.
- To apply for the Self-contained Gifted Program grades 1 - 6, students must have at least a 97%ile+ in two of the gifted identification areas, preferably in the verbal & quantitative, with a 90%ile+ in the third area OR an IQ of 140+.

### **When will I hear if my child is accepted into one of the Self-contained Programs?**

Applications are evaluated through a blind review process at the beginning of the month following the receipt of the completed application. Results are mailed to parents within 2 weeks of the committee's completion of the review.

### **Once accepted into the Self-contained Preschool or Kindergarten Program will my child automatically be placed in the Self-contained Program for grades 1 – 6? What about a Gifted Cluster class?**

Students are not automatically placed in the Self-contained Gifted Programs as the programs have different qualifying criteria for Early Childhood than they do for Elementary grades 1- 6.

PVSchools follows the state guidelines for gifted identification as noted in the AZ State Gifted Mandate. This means that elementary students in grades K – 6 need a score of 97% or higher to be officially identified as gifted and qualify for gifted program placements. Students participating in the Gifted Preschool or the Self-contained Kindergarten Program with gifted scores between 90 - 96%ile will need to be retested to determine qualification for gifted services in grades 1 – 6.

Students currently in the Gifted Preschool wishing to attend the Self-contained Gifted Kindergarten Program:

- Students with gifted test scores at 97%ile or higher qualify to apply for the Self-contained Kindergarten Program. This score also qualifies students for placement into the Schoolwide Cluster Grouping Model.
- Students participating in the Gifted Preschool who have gifted test scores between 90 – 96%ile will need to be retested to determine qualification for the Self-contained Kindergarten Program or for the Schoolwide Cluster Grouping Model. Please see our testing information posted to the Testing link on the PV Gifted Website.

Students currently in the Self-contained Gifted/Talented Kindergarten Program wishing to attend the Self-contained Gifted Program in Grades 1 - 6:

- To apply for the program at these grade levels, students require scores in the 97%ile or higher in two areas of Verbal, Nonverbal, and/or Quantitative with the third score in the 90%ile or higher or an IQ of 140+.

- Students who qualify for gifted identification by scoring at 97%ile or higher in at least one area qualify for placement into the Schoolwide Cluster Grouping Model K-6, and Content Replacement in grades 4 – 6.

**Are you closing or expanding any of the Self-contained gifted programs?**

We do not have plans to close any of self-contained gifted programs. The District continually monitors enrollment to determine when program expansion is warranted.

**How do I get my child tested?**

For students residing in the PVSchools attendance boundary and attending a PVSchool:

- Students are nominated for gifted testing by a teacher, parent, self, principal, counselor or psychologist. School personnel nominating a student complete the Teacher Nomination Packet.
- Parent completes the contents of the Parent Nomination Packet and returns it to classroom teacher or gifted specialist.
- Students are tested during the regularly scheduled test period at the students' school of attendance.
- The school's Gifted Specialist will inform parents of the testing date.
- Parents can locate the testing schedule for under the "Testing" tab located on the PVSchools Gifted Website.

For students residing in the PVSchools attendance boundary who do not attend a PVSchool:

- Parents contact the Gifted Education Department at 602-449-2113 to find out when the next available testing period is scheduled.
- The Lead Gifted Testing Technician will contact parents at least one week prior to testing with the test date, time and location. Gifted Specialists at the testing school site will be copied on communication with the parent.
- Because the student is not enrolled in a PVSchool, the parents must transport the students to the school for testing and remain present in the school building throughout the test administration.

Students who do not reside in the PVSchools attendance boundary:

- PVSchools is unable to provide gifted testing to students residing outside the attendance boundary. Please contact the home school district for gifted testing information or call the PVSchools Gifted Education office at 602-449-2113 for other options.
- Parents may choose to have their children tested outside of the district by a licensed psychologist at their own expense. Please refer to the AZ State Approved Gifted Testing List to see which tests are accepted for gifted identification in Arizona.

**Is preference given to students who are already in that school, in the district or for out of district students?**

Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, the criteria for acceptance will be:

1. Applicants residing within the self-contained schools' boundaries of the school for which they are applying.
2. Applicants who have completed **both** the Gifted/Talented Preschool and the Self-contained Gifted Kindergarten at the school for which they are applying **and** have siblings who attend that same school.
3. Applicants who attended either the Gifted/Talented Preschool **or** the Self-contained Gifted Kindergarten at the school for which they are applying **and** have siblings who attend that same school.
4. Applicants who have siblings attending the school for which they are applying.
5. Applicants who have completed **both** the Gifted/Talented Preschool **and** the Self-contained Gifted Kindergarten for which they are applying but **do not** have siblings who attend that same school.
6. Applicants new to PVSchools Self-contained Gifted Programs and requests for transfer within the program.

***These placement criteria apply only in the first month of application acceptance. Beginning in the second month and going forward, placement will be determined by availability at the preferred locations.***

**One of my children is accepted in the Gifted Self-contained Program. Does that mean my other child(ren) are accepted for Open Enrollment at that school?**

No. You must apply for open enrollment for each child. Only the child who is approved for a Self-contained Gifted Program is automatically approved for open enrollment upon entrance to the program. Please check with the individual school you are interested in for details.

**When can I visit the school I may be considering for my child?**

Schools schedule general tours and open houses at different times. Please check the school website for these dates. Tour dates for the Self-contained Gifted Programs are posted to [www.pvschools.net/gifted](http://www.pvschools.net/gifted)

**What are the class sizes for the Gifted Self-contained Programs?**

We attempt to keep the class sizes as low as possible. Our target numbers are:

- Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade classes: 22
- 3rd & 4th Grade classes: 25
- 5th & 6th Grade classes: 28

**Do you balance the genders in the Self-contained Gifted classrooms?**

No, we accept students in each class as the applications are received, reviewed and approved.

**Why have multi-age classes?**

- Many experts in the field of gifted education advocate for multi-age classes for gifted students. This structure removes the “grade level” mentality that students in a particular grade level should be learning the material and standards assigned to that grade level.
- Multi-age classes encourage teachers to use formative assessment to document achievement levels and determine the true grade levels at which the students are working in the different content areas. This is particularly important for highly gifted students who have strengths in specific areas where they are working at grade levels beyond their own.
- We do not balance the grade levels in the multi-age classes, as doing so would inadvertently exclude some students from the program.
- Limited space at some schools also supports the practice of maintaining multi-age classes.

**My child as a very high IQ. Why was she/he not accepted into the Self-contained Gifted Program?**

The Self-contained Gifted Programs in grades 1 – 6 are designed for highly and profoundly gifted students who are working at least two grade levels beyond their age appropriate grade. This constitutes a very small percentage of the District’s gifted population. Students who need high levels of rigor, pace and acceleration thrive in this program. Not all students with a high IQ demonstrate the academic readiness or the drive and motivation needed to succeed in this environment. The vast majority of our gifted students receives an appropriately challenging curriculum and instruction and engages in enriching learning experiences in the district regular gifted services, offered full time at every elementary school.

**Do I have to reapply every year?**

Once placed in the self-contained Gifted Program, Grades 1 – 6, students do not need to reapply or be tested again in order to remain in the program. If students leave the program they will need to reapply to enter again. In this situation, students will need to obtain teacher recommendations from the most current teacher and also the last teacher he/she had while in the Self-contained Gifted Program.

**How do I transfer to another Self-contained Program location?**

To request transfer from one Self-contained Program location to another, parents need to complete the information portion and the Parent Attestation of the Self-contained Gifted Program Application and submit them to the Gifted Education Department at the District Administrative Center. A completed Teacher Recommendation from your child’s current Gifted Self-contained teacher must also be submitted. It is not necessary to resubmit testing results and other information requested for the application. Transfer requests are handled on a space available basis.

**My child is on the waiting list for my preferred location. What is the process?**

When Self-contained classrooms reach their targeted number of students, the names of students accepted into the program are placed on a waiting list at their preferred location in the order of acceptance. If/when a space becomes available in the classroom the next name on the waiting list is offered the space. If the parent chooses not to accept the space, the child's name is removed from the waiting list and the next student is contacted. The waiting list will be expunged on May 1 of the year applied for.

**May I come observe in a self-contained classroom? Can my child "shadow" other students in the class/program?**

We receive numerous requests to observe in the classroom or "shadow" other students. We are unable to allow students or parents to observe in the classroom as honoring these requests would be disruptive to students' learning. We try very hard to protect instructional time to help ensure high quality education for your children.

We have Self-contained Gifted Program tours scheduled at each site. The dates and times are posted on the PVSchools Gifted website. During the tours parents and students can visit the classrooms, meet the teachers, and observe how the students are learning in the program.

**Will my child be using any technology to learn?**

Absolutely! The program incorporates technology as an instructional tool. Students in this program are learning at levels much higher than their age peers. This means that the regular school curriculum will not appropriately challenge the students. Teachers in these programs seek supplemental resources online. Teachers and students utilize a variety of devices iPads, Tablets, MacBooks, video cameras, etc. for differentiated learning experiences.