

 Commission scolaire English-Montréal English Montreal School Board		
POLICY:	GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN	CODE: PS-7
Origin:	Pedagogical Services	
Authority:	Resolution #87-05-27-8.5	
Reference(s):		

POLICY STATEMENT

The EMSB favours the provision of appropriate educational experiences for all children.

The aforementioned principle applies to the full range of the pupil population - from the most severely handicapped to the most gifted. The Board has committed itself to meeting the individual needs of its pupils and to doing everything possible to encourage them to realize their full potential. In fulfilling that commitment, the Board shall provide for the special needs of that segment of the school population that falls into the gifted category.

DEFINITION OF 'GIFTED AND TALENTED'

Gifted and talented children are those who by virtue of outstanding abilities are capable of high performance. These are children who require differentiated educational programs and/or services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program in order to realize their contribution to self and society. Children capable of high performance include those with demonstrated achievement and/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;
6. psycho-motor ability.

OBJECTIVES, SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

1. The Board reaffirms its commitment to its gifted and talented students in both its French and English sectors*, and all recommendations following apply equally to both sectors.
2. Every school shall have the responsibility to provide for the needs of its gifted and talented students.
3. Courses in the field of gifted and talented education shall be organized for administrators, teachers and consultants to help them identify these students and provide for them.
4. The Board shall continue to press the provincial government to develop an action plan for gifted and talented students, including the allocation of financial resources to local school boards for this purpose.
5. The practice of acceleration shall continue to be permitted, where appropriate.
6. Wherever possible, high schools shall assign teachers to work on special projects with gifted and talented students and the Board shall allocate resources to schools to that end.
7. For those students whose needs are so special that a pull-out program is not sufficient:
 - a. a special school with a regular school under a single administration shall be operated in a centrally located building;
 - b. alternatively and preferably in the short term, the special school shall operate in a regular school occupying five or six classrooms of an unused floor and under the direction of a separate administration, e.g. head teacher.
8. Provisions for gifted and talented students shall be organized, beginning with kindergarten.
9. Streaming at the high school level shall be supported and encouraged in order to meet the needs of the gifted and talented students.
10. High school provisions shall be organized to accommodate gifted and talented students whose needs are not being met in other high schools.

* Please note that subsequent to the adoption of this policy, linguistic school boards were established.

11. Teachers and administrators who work directly with the gifted and talented students shall exhibit a high degree of commitment to the task of providing for these students.
12. The Board shall make representation to the Ministry of Education in favour of provisions for early admission of precocious children, where readiness for formal schooling can be demonstrated.
13. The requirement that gifted and talented students be integrated with regular class students and that enrichment programs be developed for them within the regular class period shall no longer be applicable.