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**Coleman ISD**

**Gifted and Talented**

Coleman ISD recognizes the gifted and talented as those whose abilities, talents, and potential for accomplishment are so outstanding that they require a variety of special provisions to meet their educational needs.

**GOALS**

 The goals of the Coleman ISD Gifted and talented Program are to provide opportunities to:

o Enhance student understanding of self and others

o Develop student skills in creative thinking, critical thinking, and logical reasoning o Strengthen student ability to apply depth and complexity to core subject areas of study

o Develop self-directed and lifelong learning skills

o Extend student skills in research and independent study

o Broaden student skills in written, visual, and oral communication

o Experience in-depth and accelerated/compacted knowledge and understanding of curriculum content

**MISSION**

o The mission of the Gifted and Talented Program is to provide a challenging learning environment that nurtures the unique potential of gifted students so that s citizens of a global society in the twenty-first century can contribute ethically and productively in ways commensurate with their abilities.

o The Coleman Independent School District recognizes the gifted and talented as those students whose abilities, talents, and potential for accomplishment are so outstanding that they require a variety of special provisions to meet their educational needs. As students, they are found in all races, socioeconomic groups, geographic locales, and environments; as adults, they are the leaders in government, medicine, invention, the creative arts, the communicative arts, philosophy, industry, science, and many other fields. In a democratic society which seeks to offer educational opportunities appropriate to each student's ability, it is incumbent to provide for the unique needs of the gifted and talented.

o Coleman Independent School District recognizes the state definition established by the Texas Education Agency as follows: "gifted and talented student" means a child or youth who performs at or shows the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment and who:

1. exhibits high-performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area;

2. possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or

3. excels in a specific academic field.

**PHILOSOPHY**

The philosophy of the Coleman ISD program for gifted and talented students encompasses five core beliefs:

1. We believe that gifted students have unique educational needs that demand the nurture and advocacy of a differentiated academic program.

2. We believe that it is essential for gifted students to interact with their intellectual peers, as well as all student peers.

3. We believe that balanced programming for gifted students provides for both cognitive and affective development.

4. We believe that effective gifted programming equips students with the necessary skills to become self-directed, lifelong learners.

5. We believe that a program for gifted students must constantly challenge students in order to develop their potential to become exceptional contributors to society.

**EXPECTATIONS**

 Gifted/Talented students are expected:

o To become self-directed in the areas of ideas and product development.

o To develop high degrees of task commitment and time management to set goals

 and work towards them.

o To demonstrate positive attitudes toward self and others with cooperative behaviors.

o To attain work of exceptionally high quality.

o To present public presentations of work.