

Dear Parents, Students and Community,

Rio Blanco BOCES, Meeker School District and Rangely School District are committed to providing appropriate, quality education to all of their students while addressing each child's individual and unique needs.

Under the direction of the director and coordinators, Rio Blanco BOCES and its partnering school districts strive to identify, assess, and provide each gifted and talented student with enriched and/or accelerated programming to enable them to achieve their highest potential.

This pamphlet is provided as a resource to assist members of our school community in how to access the opportunities and services available to our students who are identified as gifted and talented.

Sincerely,

Teresa Bandel Schott

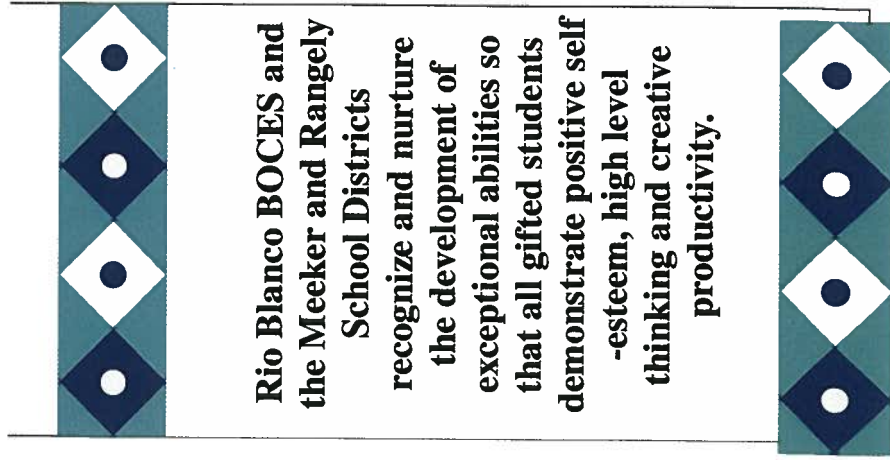


Support of Gifted and Talented Education in Rio Blanco County Schools

Gifted and Talented students in the Rio Blanco BOCES service area are supported by service coordinators in each district, along with local volunteers, through state and local funding, and community contributions.. That support and the support from district/BOCES board of directors, district administrators and teachers allows us to provide unique programs and services for our high-ability learners.



Rio Blanco BOCES Gifted and Talented Program



**Rio Blanco BOCES and
the Meeker and Rangely
School Districts**
recognize and nurture
the development of
exceptional abilities so
that all gifted students
demonstrate positive self
-esteem, high level
thinking and creative
productivity.

For more information visit our website at
www.rioblancoboces.org or for specific information on
our Gifted and Talented programming options, please
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Colorado Law Concerning Gifted & Talented Students

The Exceptional Children's Education Act (ECEA) requires all administrative units (AUs) in Colorado to identify and serve students between the ages of five and twenty-one, and age four in administrative units with Early Access, whose aptitude or competence in abilities, talents, and potential for accomplishment in one or more domains are so exceptional or developmentally advanced that they require special provisions to meet their educational programming needs.



The Rio Blanco BOCES and its partner school districts define giftedness as the union of creativity, task commitment and above-average abilities. Gifted and talented students by virtue of a variety of outstanding abilities are capable of high performance. Students are capable of high performance include those with demonstrated achievement, ability, and/or potential achievement/ability in any or a combination of the following:

- General or Specific Intellectual Ability
- Specific Academic Aptitude
- Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Musical, Dance, or Psychomotor Abilities
- Creative or Productive Thinking
- Leadership Abilities

Identification of Gifted & Talented Students

Referral

Any student between preschool and twelfth grade may be referred for the gifted and talented program. Gifted students include students with disabilities (i.e. twice exceptional) and students with exceptional abilities or potential from all socioeconomic and ethnic cultural populations. The process is continuous and on-going and may be initiated at any time for a student. Students are referred through one or more of the following means:

Teacher, Parent or Principal nomination

Assessment

Once a student is referred for consideration for the Gifted and Talented program and parents have given permission, he/she will be assessed to determine if he/she qualifies for services. The following criteria may be used to support a Body of Evidence indicating exceptionality.

- Score in the 95 percentile or above on the most recent norm referenced achievement test.
- Exceed proficiency in math, reading, writing, or science on state and/or local assessments.
- Have a written recommendation from a teacher that the student has demonstrated outstanding ability.
- Have a qualifying score on an approved creativity assessment.
- Qualify on the Talent Checklist completed by a teacher or on an approved observational assessment.
- Score in the 95 percentile or above on an IQ assessment.
- Demonstrate excellence on a product or performance evaluation.

Programming and Service Options

Each partner school in the Rio Blanco BOCES service area is unique, and programming options for gifted and talented students vary based upon the unique attributes of the school and its population.

Programming Options

- Advanced Curriculum
- Within-Class Instructional Differentiation and Accommodations
- Grouping for Instruction and Activities
- Acceleration in Student Placement
- Affective Programming
- Independent Studies
- Mentorships/Apprenticeships
- Enrichment
- Post-secondary Partnerships
- Early Entrance

Service Options

Students may receive instruction in another classroom, through consultation and/or coaching, through differentiated strategies in mixed ability classrooms, and/or in special classes or seminars.

