

For the past two years, the school district has been conducting a comprehensive review of the Vision 21 Program, the district's program for gifted and talented students. The review process has been completed and the district is ready to move forward with implementing the recommendations from the review committee. The purpose of this communication is to inform you of the changes to the elementary Vision 21 Program and the timeline for implementation.

The Vision 21 Program services will be restructured in order to provide a more rigorous and relevant learning experience for those students identified as performing well above grade level in specific academic areas. The District's Vision 21 program will consist of three components:

- In-class Enrichment experiences taught by a Vision 21 teacher
- A Young Scholars Program to identify and nurture gifted potential
- Direct Instruction for identified students from a Vision 21 teacher in a resource room setting

The recommendations from the review team will mean a change in the way services are delivered to the students. We believe the changes will strengthen our Vision 21 program and provide an enriched learning experience that will better meet the learning needs of our gifted and talented students.

Program description and timeline for implementation are described below.

Grade 1: Enrichment Experiences and the Introduction of the Young Scholars Program

Enrichment Experiences: Starting fall of 2012

Enrichment services will be provided to all 1st grade students, throughout the school year. The Vision 21 teacher at each site will provide enrichment lessons to all 1st Grade students, in their regular classroom. Individual student learning needs will be met through various methods such as classroom differentiation and personalization.

Young Scholars Program: Starting fall of 2012

The Young Scholars Program will be implemented at each site. The Young Scholars Program is an academic program that embraces research-based practices for identifying and nurturing gifted potential in students who otherwise may have not been identified as qualifying for gifted services.

Grade 2: Identification and the Beginning of Formal Vision 21 Services

Identification Process: Starting fall of 2012

Data from a variety of sources, including ability and achievement assessments along with classroom observations, will be used to assess student readiness for Vision 21 services. Vision 21 teachers will continue to provide in-class enrichment lessons until the identification process has been completed.

Formal Vision 21 Services: Starting January, 2013

Students identified as ready for Vision 21 will receive direct instruction from a Vision 21 teacher in a resource room setting. Identified students will continue in the program through 5th grade.

Grade 3: Beginning Formal Vision 21 Services October 2012

Third grade students are the first group to transition to the new identification process. In mid-October, a District Team will meet to identify students. Multiple assessments will be used for identification, including ability, achievement and classroom observations. Students identified will receive gifted services from a Vision 21 teacher in a resource room setting. Identified students will continue in the program through 5th grade.

Grades 4 and 5: Continuation of Formal Vision 21 Services

Identified students will continue to receive direct instruction from a Vision 21 teacher in a resource room setting. For more information, contact your building principal or building Vision 21 teacher.