

# MSD Warren Township

## Criteria and Selection Process For Grades 2 – 6

***Mission Statement:*** *The EXCEL Program is designed to meet the unique academic and affective needs of highly talented students through a cooperative, enriched, and accelerated academic program where each person feels significant and appreciated.*

Students are identified and placed in a Talent Pool based on specific criteria. Students in the Talent Pool are further screened and their scores are combined into a T-score to rank order the Talent Pool candidates. The Screening Committee will then select students, as openings are available, to invite into the EXCEL Program.

### **Grade 2**

#### *Initial Talent Pool Identification*

- Reading Assessments/CogAT Test
- Motivation & Characteristics Rating Scale
- Teacher Recommendation
- Parent Recommendation

### **Grades 3 - 6**

#### *Initial Talent Pool Identification*

- Scale score of Pass+ plus 20 points on current ISTEP+
- Acuity and SRI lexile scores
- Teacher Recommendation
- Parent Recommendation

Note: Talent Pool students are bright and academically capable. The next two steps are designed to determine those truly academically talented students who require a differentiated, accelerated curriculum.

- Students' scores are combined into a T-score to rank order the Talent Pool candidates.
- A screening committee selects students from the ranked Talent Pool for entrance into the EXCEL Program based on space available.

## MSD Warren Township EXCEL Program Expectation

Brookview, Lakeside and Lowell Elementary Schools and each Intermediate Academy offer full-time classes for high-ability students. Students are selected for the EXCEL classes based upon state and district criteria which may include achievement test scores, aptitude test scores, student progress, parent nomination, and teacher recommendation.

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### *Expectations of the EXCEL Program*

- Students are challenged to grow in the academic and affective areas.
- Open communication provides parents with an understanding of their child's progress in the program. Parents are encouraged to be participants in the learning process.
- Curriculum is appropriately **accelerated** and **differentiated** to meet the learning needs of the academically talented student.
- A safe and nurturing environment is provided for every student.

### *Expectations of the Students and Parents*

- *The curriculum in EXCEL is differentiated and faster-paced. Basic skills are mastered. Students may work above grade level.*
- EXCEL students are expected to complete challenging short and long-term projects both at home and at school.
- Homework is an expectation of EXCEL students.
- Parental support in and out of school is necessary for the successful educational development of the EXCEL student.
- Peer interactions and activities are age appropriate.
- A one-year commitment is expected.