

# Conemaugh Valley School District Gifted Services

## Mission Statement

*The goal of Conemaugh Valley's Gifted Services is to reflect and extend the district's mission statement and to diversify learning in order to challenge and prepare our advanced students to become critical thinkers, life-long learners, high academic achievers, and productive members of a changing global society. While providing enrichment, individualized and strength-based educational opportunities, the program provides the gifted learner with challenging and purposeful instruction.*

## Definition

The definition of giftedness comes from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Special Education. Rules and Regulations under Chapter 16 and states that a student who is mentally gifted demonstrates outstanding intellectual and creative ability, the development of which requires specially designed programs or support services, or both, not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. (§22 PA Code 16.1) This term includes a person who has an IQ of 130 or higher or when multiple criteria, as set forth in Chapter 16 and in Department Guidelines, indicate gifted ability. Determination of gifted ability will not be based on IQ score alone. (22 PA Code §16.21 (d)) Deficits in memory or processing speed, as indicated by intellectual ability subtests, cannot be the sole basis upon which a student is determined to be ineligible for gifted special education. A person with an IQ score lower than 130 may be admitted to gifted programs when other educational criteria in the profile of the person strongly indicate gifted ability. Determination of mentally gifted must include a full assessment by a certified school psychologist.

## Referral and Child Find Procedures

Conemaugh Valley School District makes gifted program referral and eligibility information available to all interested persons through student handbooks, the district website, and other media.

## Screening

To identify students who may be eligible for gifted education, various screening activities are conducted annually, in January. This systematic screening process fulfills the District's responsibility to conduct child find activities for students who may need services or instruction not ordinarily provided in the general education curriculum. The review considers information about academic and cognitive abilities collected on all students at a given grade level.