

CATS: Creative and Academic Talent Services Local Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Plan

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The Catamount School has developed this local AIG plan based on the NC AIG Program Standards (adopted by SBE, 2009, 2012, 2015). These Standards serve as a statewide framework and guide LEAs to develop, coordinate and implement thoughtful and comprehensive AIG programs. The NC AIG Program Standards encompass six principle standards with accompanying practices.

These standards articulate the expectations for quality, comprehensive, and effective local AIG programs and relate to the categories related to NC's AIG legislation, Article 9B (N. C. G. S. 115C-150.5). These best practices help to clarify the standard, describe what an LEA should have in place, and guide LEAs to improve their programs. This local AIG plan has been approved by the WCU Catamount School Advisory Board and submitted to NC DPI for comment.

The Catamount School's local AIG plan is as follows:

The Catamount School Vision for local AIG program:

The Catamount Schools supports and engages all learners. Our CATS (Creative and Academic Talent Services) program serves students in sixth through eighth grade who manifest the ability to learn well beyond the expected level of their peers. CATS serves students identified as Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) and students who show high potential or high interest in specific subjects or topics of study. The vision of the CATS program is to enrich students' learning opportunities through challenging, rigorous, and creative learning opportunities beyond the curriculum outlined by the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and Common Core State Standards. In addition, we support AIG students emotionally, socially, and academically to prepare them for their future endeavors.

Sources of Funding for Local AIG Program: N/A

Standard 1: Student Identification

The LEA's student identification procedures for AIG are clear, equitable, and comprehensive and lead towards appropriate educational services.

Practice A: Articulates and disseminates the procedures for AIG student identification, including screening, referral, and identification processes for all grade levels to school personnel, parents/families, students, and the community-at-large.

LEA Response: The Catamount School articulates and disseminates procedures for AIG student identification to school personnel, parents/families, students, and the community through a variety of methods, including:

- Principal has an AIG reference manual which includes a Flowchart of the AIG Referral Process, needs determination forms and checklists, parent permission for testing, and other referral information.
- Administration informs school staff about the procedures for screening, referring, and identifying students who are gifted in their classrooms.
- Information about the identification process is available on the Catamount School's website. Parents have access to the AIG reference manual.
- All stakeholders are given updates about student identification results.

