



Classroom Teacher Gifted Professional Development Frequently Asked Questions

April 2, 2019



What is the requirement for gifted professional development?

General education teachers providing gifted services are required to have 60 clock hours of gifted-specific professional development provided by someone with proper gifted education credentials. Teachers are required to obtain 15 hours per year for four years. Once the 60-hour requirement is met, teachers must have ongoing gifted professional development as long as they are in that role. AP and IB teachers who have had at least 24 hours of formal AP or IB training within the past 5 years are required to have 7.5 hours per year for 4 years, for a total of 30 hours of gifted professional development. Please see below for more details about this requirement.

If more than the required hours are met in a year, do the extra hours roll over?

Yes. If a teacher obtains more than the 15 hours required per year for the first four years, those extra hours will roll over to count toward the next year's requirement up to the initial 60 hours total required. Once the teacher has fulfilled the 60 hours initial requirement, each year after will be a reset for ongoing professional development.

How will the district assist with providing gifted professional development?

We will continue to offer summer workshops for teachers providing gifted services. Additionally, one district professional development day will be set aside each year for teachers to attend a sponsored workshop to count toward their hours, and we will continue to offer online professional development access through GT Ignite. Where possible, we will request Ashland offer a gifted course as part of their continuing education partnership with the district.

If I am co-teaching with a licensed gifted specialist, does the requirement apply to me?

Yes. Any classroom teacher responsible for providing reported services to gifted students must attend the required professional development.

If I am planning to retire at the end of next year, do I need to attend the hours required?

Yes. If you will be instructing a course reported as a gifted service, you will need to attend the professional development.

I am an AP teacher and have attended an AP Summer Institute. Does that training count toward the hours required?

Yes and no. No, the hours for AP training do not count toward the required gifted professional development hours. However, if you have documented participation in at least 24 clock hours of formal AP training within the past five years, the number of hours of gifted-specific professional development is cut in half. The competencies to be covered in those reduced hours are more specific to focus on the nature and needs of diverse gifted learners and incorporating critical and creative thinking into differentiated instruction plus the development of WEPS based on ongoing assessment. If you have not had at least 24 clock hours of formal AP training within the past 5 years, you are required to fulfill the full 60 hours of gifted-specific professional development over the course of four years.

I am an International Baccalaureate teacher and have attended an IB Workshop. Does that training count toward the hours required?

Yes and no. No, the hours for IB training do not count toward the required gifted professional development hours. However, if you have documented participation in at least 24 clock hours of formal IB training within the past five years, the number of hours of gifted-specific professional development is cut in half. The competencies to be covered in those reduced hours are more specific to focus on the nature and needs of diverse gifted learners and incorporating critical and creative thinking into differentiated instruction plus the development of WEPS based on ongoing assessment. If you have not had at least 24 clock hours of formal IB training within the past 5 years, you are required to fulfill the full 60 hours of gifted-specific professional development over the course of four years.

I am a Unified Arts teacher providing service through an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate visual or performing arts course. How does this new requirement apply to me?

Individuals in this role are not subject to the 60-hour rule. However, they are required to have ongoing professional development. We will be requiring those teachers to participate in 6 clock hours of gifted professional development annually.

I have been working on my gifted endorsement through a university. Does this requirement for 60 hours apply to me?

If you have completed 1 semester-long course, your Year 1 and 2 hours are covered. Two or more courses would cover Years 1 -4 of the requirement. Additional hours are required each year thereafter. Please be sure to provide evidence of completed gifted coursework to the Gifted & Talented office if your endorsement is not yet posted on your license.

I have my gifted endorsement active on my current license. What is required of me?

Individuals with a valid gifted endorsement are required to have ongoing professional development related to gifted education each year. We will be requiring those teachers to participate in 6 clock hours of professional development annually.

I have been teaching the class for many years. Does the PD requirement apply to me?

Yes. All teachers who do not hold a gifted endorsement but are providing service to gifted learners must have 60 clock hours within 4 years of beginning to provide services, with a minimum of 15 hours obtained each year. Additional hours will be required each year after.

How many hours will be required in year 5 and beyond?

We will be setting a standard of 6 hours annually within our district. This number is within the range of best practice research in this domain and aligns with a typical length of a professional development day.

How will I know how many hours I have acquired and still need?

The Gifted and Talented division will send a transcript of PD to teachers who need to fulfill this requirement at the start of the school year and at the semester break. Reminder notices will be sent monthly to those who have not fulfilled their requirement for the year. However, it is the responsibility of each teacher to monitor their specific hours throughout the year. The Gifted & Talented Office is unable to answer requests for updated hours for individuals beyond the notifications described here.

Can I attend a gifted professional development opportunity outside of the district?

Yes, you may. However, for the hours to count, the content must be specific to gifted education and aligned with the competencies outlined in the operating standards. Additionally, the content must be delivered by someone who holds a gifted license, has a graduate degree in gifted education, or is a state or nationally-recognized presenter in the area of gifted education. Teachers who opt to partake in professional development outside of what the district offers are responsible for all costs associated with that unless approved for district funds through established conference attendance procedures. If you attend a training outside of the district, please submit the Gifted PD Documentation form, event agenda, and certificate of completion to the Gifted & Talented office to make sure the hours are documented.

Can I get credit toward my license renewal for attending gifted professional development?

If you are interested in seeking credit toward your license renewal, you will need to submit a request for credit through the Office of Professional Learning and Licensure's online PDS. Professional development hosted by the Gifted and Talented division will be entered into the district's tracking system for registration and granting credit. However, attendance at outside events or the use of GT Ignite requires the teacher to submit a request for credit following the guidelines set forth by the LPDC.

What if I don't obtain the required professional development?

In order for the class to be reported as a service, the teacher of record must participate in the professional development. As it would create inequity around the district or be in contrast to our district's approved gifted service plan, the course cannot be offered but reported as service at one school and not reported as a service at another. As such, if a teacher opts not to participate in the professional development as required by the state, the teacher will no longer be able to teach that class and a new instructor willing to attend the professional development will be assigned. In the event a new teacher cannot be assigned, the course will not be able to be offered at the school.