

DRAFT

POLICY ON "ACADEMICALLY TALENTED"

(The Jewish Community Relations Council) has long supported and continues to support such educational principles as integration and compensatory education, because it is our belief that the schools must serve to bring out the full potential in every student. It is for that reason that we are also concerned with the public school's attention to those students who have special academic interest or potential. We therefore feel that it is important to clarify the intent and policy of the San Francisco School District at this time with respect to the treatment of those students. It is also our belief that the strength of the schools depends in part on the support of all the parents of the city, who are properly concerned with the diverse educational needs of their children, whatever they may be. Our understanding of the policy as it might exist is the following:

1. In elementary schools, the goal is for those students identified as having special academic interest or potential to remain within the basic setting of an integrated school or classroom but to be given educational options which provide for their special academic interests and potential.
2. In the secondary schools, the goal is for those students identified as having special academic interest or potential to be within the basic setting of integrated schools but to be able to be part of specific interest groupings in specific subject matters, based on their interest and their competency. The content of the schools' curriculum should be diverse enough to encompass their special interests.
3. Special efforts should be made to identify those students who have potential for special academic interest but who might slip through the usual test measures, perhaps because of cultural factors which could prove detrimental in determining their true potential.
4. The District will take action to make it strongly and continuously clear to its administrators and teachers - and to its students and parents - that it has a strong interest in these students, and will pursue that interest in the manners indicated above.

We would appreciate knowing if that is indeed the general intent and policy of the School District at this time.