The following are five categories of identification:

Intellectual Ability: Students whose general intellectual development is markedly advanced in relation to their chronological peers. In general, students are tested only one time.

- Students who consistently function advanced levels in both English-Language Arts/reading (elementary), English (secondary), and mathematics.
- Students who demonstrate high achievement on a nationally standardized, norm-referenced, group administered measure of verbal and non-verbal school abilities

Specific Academic Ability: Students who are highly advanced in either English-Language Arts/reading (elementary), English (secondary), or mathematics.

Creative Ability: Students who use imagination or have original ideas; have the ability to think up and design new inventions; produce innovative work, solve problems in new ways, or develop an idea based on an original, novel or unconventional approach.

Leadership Ability: Students who show confidence and knowledge; influence others effectively; have problem-solving and decision making skills; express ideas in oral or written form clearly; show sense of purpose and direction.

Ability in the Performing Arts or Visual Arts: Students who originate, perform, produce, or respond at exceptionally high levels in either dance, vocal, drama, or in drawing or painting.