

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Oct. 9, 2014

Penn*Link

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Special Education Directors
Intermediate Unit Executive Officers

FROM: Patricia Hozella, Director
Bureau of Special Education

SUBJECT: Caseloads for Gifted Education

In reference to caseloads for a gifted support teacher or case manager, the district must consider other duties of the educator that are not part of the gifted education assignment in order to prorate acceptable student numbers. A teacher may have other responsibilities as defined by their job description that are not specific to gifted duties, but are defined by general or special education teaching assignments (i.e. teacher of record for general education courses, librarian, caseload manager for special education students, supervisory responsibilities, department coordinators, department chairpersons, etc.).

The maximum number of students per a gifted teacher's caseload is 65 for a full time equivalent (FTE) of 1. If a gifted teacher is a .50 FTE the gifted teacher's maximum caseload is 33 students. A gifted teacher that is .25 FTE has a maximum caseload of 16. Prorated determination of a gifted teacher's FTE status must align with their teaching duties as described above.

Reference §16.41 General (c) of the Pennsylvania Code "Districts shall adopt board policies relating to caseloads and class sizes for gifted students which:

- (1) Ensure the ability of assigned staff to provide the services required in each gifted student's gifted individualized education program.
- (2) Address all the educational placements for gifted students used by the district.
- (3) Limit the total number of gifted students that can be on an individual gifted teacher's caseload to a maximum 75 students. Beginning July 1, 2010, the total number of gifted students that can be on an individual gifted teacher's caseload is limited to a maximum of 65 students.
- (4) Limit the total number of gifted students that can be on an individual gifted teacher's class roster to a maximum of 20 students."

If you have any questions, please direct them to either Dr. Shirley Curl, Special Education Adviser, at 717.786.6361 or scurl@pa.gov, or Tanya Morret, Adviser with Capital Area Intermediate Unit at tmorret@caiu.org.