



## EXCEL Programming by Level of Service and Grade Level RMS-CES

### EXCEL Mission

The EXCEL mission is to recognize gifted and talented students and appropriately meet their unique academic, social, and emotional needs to continue Rockford Area Schools' tradition of excellence, one student at a time.

### EXCEL Objectives

- Identify students who exhibit unique abilities or potential significantly beyond that of their peers of similar age, experience, or environment
- Provide levels of service to meet the diverse needs of highly able learners
- Enrich and extend the general education curriculum to engage and challenge highly able learners
- Discover and nurture the unique talents and interests of individual students
- Develop exceptional citizens

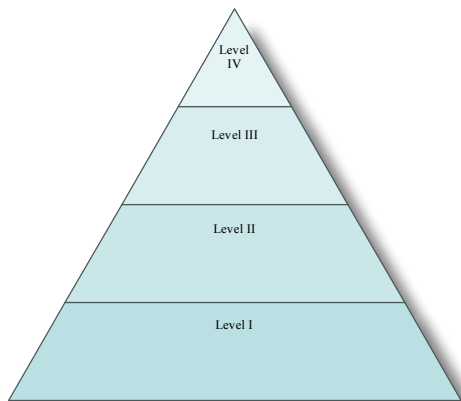
### Identification

EXCEL services will be available to students in grades one through eight who exhibit unique abilities or potential significantly beyond that of their peers of similar age, experience, or environment. Students in grades one and two will not be formally identified. Students in grades three through eight will be formally identified for EXCEL services using a combination of the following objective and subjective criteria and considerations:

- **Standardized testing**—Tests used in the EXCEL referral process include the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA II), the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), and the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test.
- **Classroom assessments**—Classroom level assessments will include formative and summative assessments administered by classroom teachers, specialists, EXCEL educators, or other qualified educators.
- **Teacher referral and parent referral**

## Program Model

The EXCEL program model is based on Treffinger’s “Levels of Service;” which is a model built around four levels of service. In this model, services are leveled; not students. Through the identification process, we will strive to provide the appropriate service or services that individual students need to be engaged and challenged. Level I and II services do not necessitate formal identification. Level I services will be available to all students and Level II services to most students. Identification for Level III and IV services will be more specific, using the subjective and objective criteria listed. EXCEL services are grounded in research-supported best practices in gifted and talented education. Programming will include a combination of send-out services, collaborative teaching, varied grouping strategies, acceleration, differentiation of curriculum and instruction, enrichment and talent development opportunities, and individualized educational plans.



**Level I** services are available to all students and may be provided by the classroom teacher, a guest speaker or volunteer, media specialist, environmental/STEM specialist, or any person with knowledge or expertise that could enrich the general education curricular environment. Services may be offered in the form of presentations, lessons differentiated by level and choice, STEM programming, site-based learning, and extracurricular opportunities. The EXCEL educator will also be available to collaborate with classroom teachers and provide support.

**Level II** services are available to many students and may be accessed by student choice or teacher referral. Examples include participation in Battle of the Books, Book Club, History Day, STEM opportunities beyond the curriculum, Destination ImagiNation, Young Scientist Roundtable, or additional curricular or extracurricular opportunities deemed appropriate.

**Level III** services are available to identified students (approximately 10-15% of students per grade level) who meet specific criteria. Students will be clustered in mathematics and language arts classrooms with students who have similar abilities. Identified students may also be sent-out of the classroom to participate in EXCEL curricula. Examples of Level III services provided within the classroom may include Fermi Math, Envirothon, a modified/accelerated curriculum, independent study, or other services determined by the classroom teacher or resource teacher necessary for students to be challenged and engaged. Send-out services will be designed to include enrichment opportunities in the areas in which a student demonstrates exceptional abilities, as well as providing social and emotional education.

**Level IV** services extend to approximately 2-3% of the student population who are selected based on specific criteria and who demonstrate abilities far beyond those of their grade-level peers (generally at least two grade-level deviations). Level IV services may be offered in the classroom setting, but more likely will occur through send-out programs, grade acceleration, subject-level acceleration, mentorship, or individualized academic programs. EXCEL educators will work directly with individual students to meet their specific needs. Though the process will include many data-driven factors, it will be imperative that strong collaboration exists between parents/guardians, general education teachers, students, and EXCEL educators.

**Levels of Service**

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Level I	Differentiated instruction, Deep Portage, site-based learning	Differentiated instruction, History Day, site-based learning	Differentiated instruction, site-based learning
Level II	Battle of the Books, Book Club, History Day, STEM opportunities, Young Scientists Roundtable, WordMasters (blue), Destination ImagiNation*, Envirothon, 3-D Racing Game Design*	Battle of the Books, Book Club, History Day, STEM opportunities, Young Scientists Roundtable, WordMasters (blue), Destination ImagiNation*, Envirothon	Challenge of the Books, Book Club, History Day, Young Scientists Roundtable, WordMasters (blue), Destination ImagiNation*, Envirothon
Level III	Fermi math/Continental Math League, WordMasters (gold), Socratic seminars, modified/accelerated curriculum, independent study, send-out services	Fermi math, WordMasters (gold), Socratic seminars, History Day (competitive level), modified/accelerated curriculum, independent study, send-out services	Fermi math/Stock Market, WordMasters (gold), Socratic seminars, modified/accelerated curriculum, independent study, send-out services
Level IV	Grade acceleration, subject-level acceleration, mentorship, individualized academic programming	Grade acceleration, subject-level acceleration, mentorship, individualized academic programming	Grade acceleration, subject-level acceleration, mentorship, individualized academic programming

\* denotes services provided through Community Education