PREFACE

In 1993 the United States Department of Education published a report on gifted education: *National Excellence: A Case for America's Talent*. This report indicated the lack of appropriate educational opportunities and services for gifted students. Also, in 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly directed the State Board of Education to "reexamine the state's laws, rules, and policies concerning the education of academically gifted children." As a result of the legislative mandate, a task force on academically gifted education was formed. The task force recommended that each local educational unit develop a plan for gifted education following the North Carolina State Board of Education guidelines. Ultimately, this move toward more local autonomy would reverse the state's long tradition of mandated eligibility standards and allow for flexibility in programming and in the use of monetary resources.

Within the educational environment, we must strive to meet the needs of a diverse student population. We hope to meet these needs by collaborating with other educators, building on North Carolina's Standard Course of Study, and utilizing resources within our school system and community. We plan to create many educational opportunities for highly capable students through acceleration, enrichment, and rigorous studies. The following document describes an array of services available to meet the diversity of students' needs. The plan will evolve and change as our needs change. We will strive to be flexible, study what benefits students, and utilize best practices. Our goal is to continuously strive for excellence.

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