

## Gifted and Talented Education Program FAQ's Screening and Referral

The Gifted and Talented Education Program in the Atlanta Public School System provides differentiated instruction for the intellectually advanced and creatively gifted student. Gifted services are available for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

### **What is the process for having my child evaluated for the Gifted and Talented Education Program?**

The Atlanta Public School System screens students for eligibility twice a year.

#### **I. Automatic Screening- At the beginning of the school year, gifted teachers review test scores.**

- **Gifted Rating Scale (Grades K-5)**  
Students must have a combined score of the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile on Intellectual Ability and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Motivation Gifted Rating Scale.
- **Criterion Referenced Competency Test (Grades 4-9 only)**  
Students must have achieved the top 10<sup>th</sup> percentile derived from district norms in Math CRCT score or Reading CRCT score.
- **Grades (Grades 10 -12)**  
Students must have cumulative average of 3.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale over a two year period in core academic areas (English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, or Social Studies).

#### **II. Classroom Screening – All school staff completes the TABs (Traits, Abilities, Behaviors Instrument) to observe students.**

All school staff will utilize this form to observe students for the demonstration of gifted behaviors during the period of December 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. This is one source of nomination for students in grades K-12.

#### **III. Parental Nomination**

Parents complete the Gifted Referral and Parental Permission Form and submit to the eligibility team for review. The referral window is August 1<sup>st</sup> - December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **If my child is nominated for screening, what happens next?**

Students meeting either the automatic screening OR classroom screening are **referred** for gifted testing. Once referred for testing:

- Parent receives *Parent Notification for Testing Consent Form*
- Student is evaluated for the gifted program
- Eligibility is determined; parents are notified.

### **When does screening occur?**

**I. Automatic Screening** will take place August-September. Students referred for testing will be assessed September-October. All parents will be notified of eligibility four to six weeks after testing is completed.

**II. Classroom Screening** will take place in December. Students referred for testing will be assessed January-March. All parents will be notified of eligibility four to six weeks after testing is completed.

### **How long is the testing process?**

Testing will consist of one hour sessions each day one to five days.

### **Can my child be assessed before the start of the school year?**

No. The automatic screening process that is completed at the beginning of the year is the first opportunity students have to be screened/assessed.

### **May I provide results from private assessments?**

Results from private assessments shall be used **only in the mental ability category**. The results shall be supported by two of the three remaining categories. One of the three remaining categories must be a nationally normed test. A complete report must be provided.

### **Who do I contact about the gifted program at the school?**

Each school in APS has a gifted eligibility chairperson. If you have any questions regarding the gifted program at a specific school, s/he will be able to assist you.

### **What are the benefits of the gifted program?**

Intellectually gifted and exceptionally creative students have unique learning characteristics, interests, personal needs, and capabilities. Atlanta Public School's Gifted and Talented Education Program addresses these unique characteristics and needs by providing an opportunity for gifted students to interact with their intellectual peers as they participate in classes that extend and enrich the core curriculum.

### **If my child were determined eligible, how and when would his or her schedule change?**

In elementary school, gifted students receive five gifted segments each week and receive instruction from a gifted endorsed teacher. Units extend and enrich the curriculum. Once determined eligible, students will begin gifted services in January for those assessed in the fall and in August for those assessed in the winter.

In middle school, gifted students receive five segments each week through content courses. The exact courses for a student are determined by past classroom performance, nationally normed achievement test scores, and teacher recommendations. Once determined eligible, students will begin gifted services at the change of semester.

In high school, gifted students receive services through Advanced Placement courses and International Baccalaureate courses. Once determined eligible, students will begin gifted services at the change of the semester.

**For additional information, contact the Office of Gifted and Talented Education (404) 802-7585**