



Gifted and Talent Development

Benteen Elementary

Ms. Iris Marsh

The Vision and Mission of Gifted Education in APS

Vision

Gifted and Talented Education in Atlanta Public Schools will architect globally competitive, critical, and creative thinkers of the 21st Century.

Mission

Through advocacy and innovation, the unique needs of gifted and talented students will be recognized, valued, and nurtured so their inspired minds are equipped to change the world.

APS Gifted and Talented Program

Instructional Standards

Advanced Communication Skills (ACS): Learners will express ideas clearly and effectively using advanced communication skills for a variety of purposes.

Creativity (CRT): Learners will generate and/or produce items, ideas, and solutions using creative thinking skills.

Creative Problem Solving (CPS) Learners will insightfully evaluate a variety of problems and arrive at innovative and reasonable conclusions.

Global Citizenship (GCZ): Learners will develop an awareness of global cultures, connections and issues in order to become actively engaged citizens of the world, with respect for differing values and goals.

Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS): Learners will analytically critique a system or set of complex ideas, utilizing logic and reasoning skills in novel ways, to create and/or modify knowledge.

Leadership (LEAD): Students will develop an awareness of leadership skills, analyze and evaluate components of leadership, and demonstrate an effective leadership style.

Advanced Research Skills (ARS): Learners will select and explore a topic, research using a variety of sources, analyze and evaluate the information.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL): Learners will develop an understanding of their unique social emotional needs as a gifted learner and develop their coping and social interaction skills.

What does a Gifted Teacher Do?

Inspires a Love of Learning: They make learning exciting and relevant, sparking curiosity and a desire to explore subjects deeply.

Adapts to Student Needs: A gifted teacher recognizes the diverse needs of their students and differentiates instruction to meet those needs. They can identify when a student needs more support or more challenge.

Encourages Critical Thinking: They foster an environment where students are encouraged to ask questions, think critically, and explore different perspectives.

Uses Innovative Teaching Methods: They are not afraid to experiment with new techniques, technologies, and teaching strategies to enhance learning.

Engages Students Actively: A gifted teacher involves students in active learning through discussions, projects, and hands-on activities, rather than relying solely on lectures.

Fosters Independence: They empower students to take ownership of their learning, encouraging them to become independent thinkers and problem-solvers.

Eligibility Overview



Referral

A student is referred for gifted eligibility assessment if the student:

- Scored 85% or higher on any Reading / Math assessment in the previous 24 months
- or
- Enrolled recently and was identified as eligible for gifted series in another state.



REMINDER

Once a student is referred, the parent/guardian receives communication with a link to provide consent for testing.

If consent is returned by the requested deadline, your child will be assessed according to the following grade level timelines.



Eligibility

The following criteria are used to determine gifted eligibility status:

- **Option A: Mental ability composite score threshold AND Achievement score threshold are met**
- **Option B: Score in 3 of the 4 categories must meet the threshold eligibility.**

[APS Gifted Eligibility Overview Video](#)
[\(Click Here\)](#)

3. Testing Cycle

Windows for Specific Tasks

Testing Window 1 for GES, NNAT (2 weeks)

Testing Window 2 for CogAT, TTCT, ES Product (4 weeks)

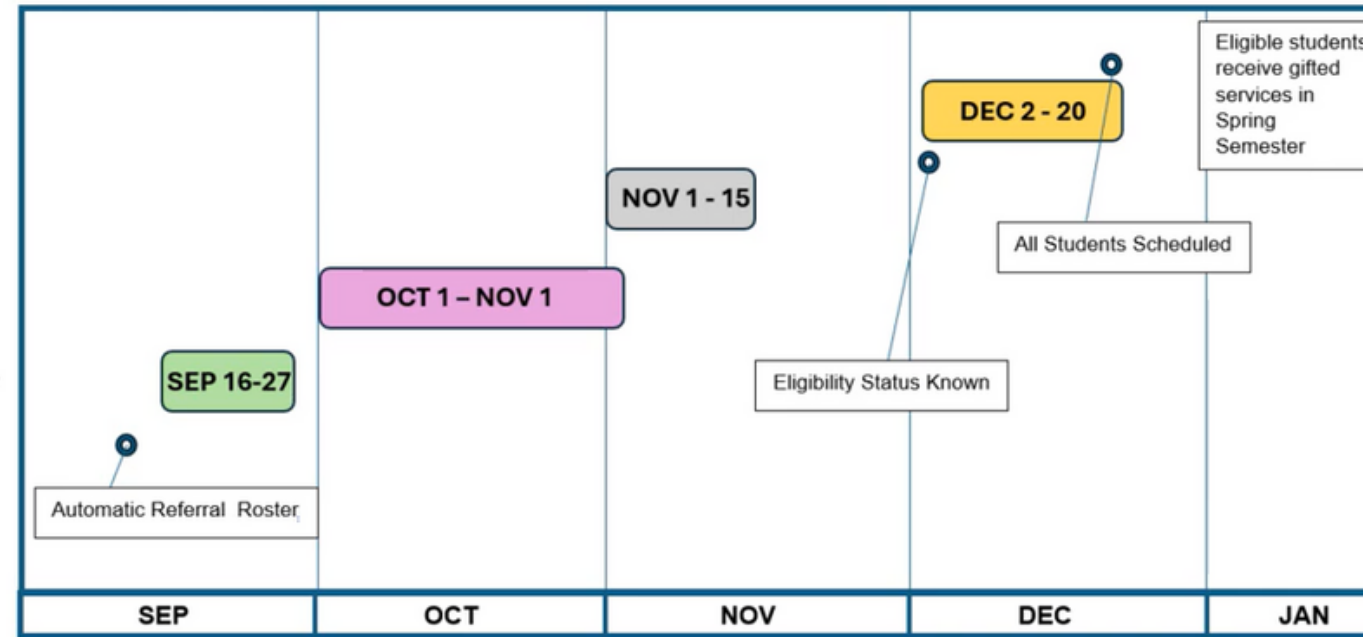
ES Product Scoring Window Opens (2 weeks)

Eligibility Team Meeting Window (3 weeks)

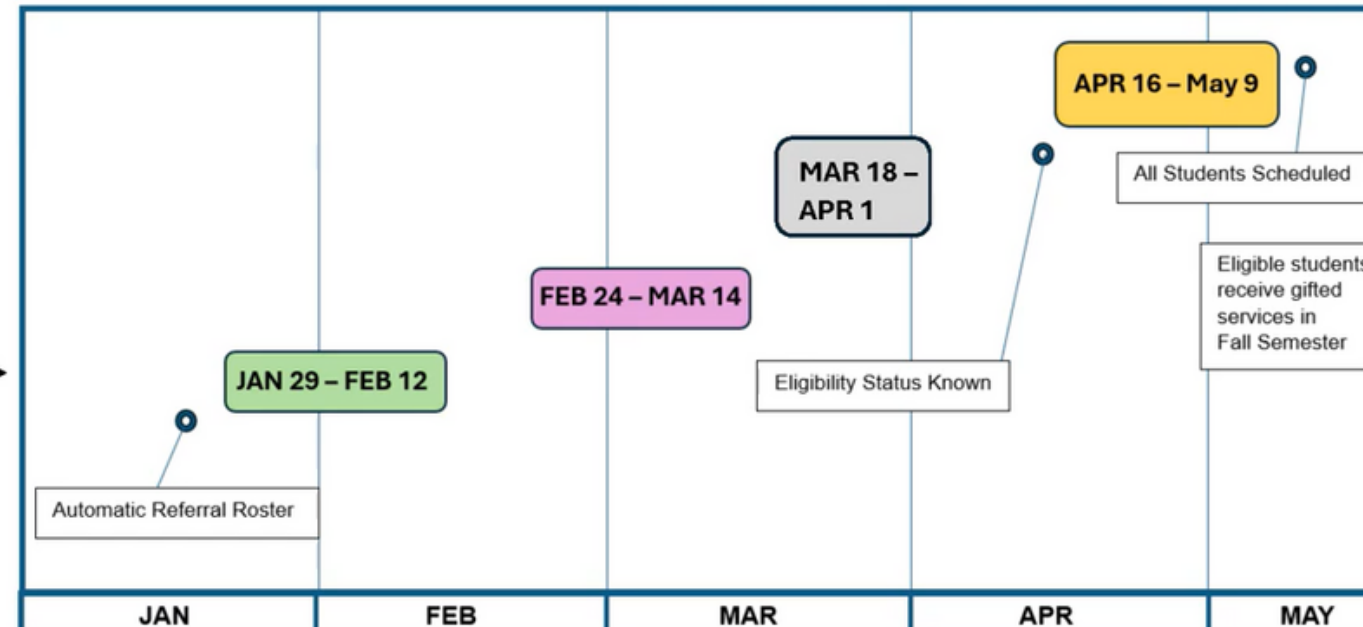
Gifted Eligibility Testing Schedule 2024-25



**Grades 1-10
are assessed
during Fall**



**Grade K Only
is assessed
during Spring Semester**



Assessment Used in Gifted Eligibility Testing

Motivation/Creativity

Initial Assessment

- **GES (Gifted Evaluation Scales):** assesses both Creativity and Motivation. This is done by teachers that observe motivation and creativity exhibited in the classroom. The 90th percentile is the minimum score for gifted eligibility.

Secondary Assessment

- **TTCT (Torrance Test of Creative Thinking):** This requires students to use their imagination, solve problems, think of new ideas, and elaborate on their ideas. The 90th percentile is the minimum score for gifted eligibility.

[More information on TTCT](#)

Mental Ability Assessments

Initial Assessment

- **NNAT (Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test):** designed to assess mental reasoning ability of students. The 96th percentile is the minimum score for gifted eligibility.

[More information on NNAT](#)

Secondary Assessment

- **CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test):** Measures reasoning abilities in 3 batteries: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. The 96th percentile is the minimum score for gifted eligibility.

[More information on CogAT](#)

Achievement

NWEA (Measure of Academic Progress Map Growth): Assess how well a student has learned objectives in academic areas. The 85th percentile is the minimum score for gifted eligibility (1st–10th grade). The 90th percentile is the minimum score for gifted eligibility (Kindergarten).

[More information on NWEA](#)

[APS Gifted Eligibility Overview Video](#)
(Click Here)



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