
**Gifted and Talented Education Screening and Referral
Frequently Asked Questions
2015-2016**

Gifted and Talented Education 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 all students who are actively enrolled and attending an Atlanta Public School for eligibility during the Fall semester. Note that students residing in the city of Atlanta enrolled in private schools or home study programs are not eligible for APS gifted testing and services.

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

- **Nationally Normed Test (K-10)**
Students must have a nationally normed test score at the 90thile that is less than two years old.
- **Achievement Data (K-10)**
Students who have scored 85thile or higher on the district administered Computer Adaptive Achievement Series (CAAS) assessment will also be automatically referred for testing.
- **Grades (Grade 9-10)**
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, and Social Studies).

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

All school staff will utilize the TABs form to observe students for the demonstration of 10 gifted behaviors during the period of September 21 – October 2. Students receiving a minimum of 35 out of 50 on the TABs, and who have supporting data, will be referred for testing.

III. Parental Referral

Any parent within Atlanta Public Schools may refer their child for gifted and talented testing. Parents must complete the Gifted Referral and Parental Permission Form and submit to the eligibility team for review. The referral window is August 5 – October 2. Students of parents who make requests after this date will not be tested during the current school year.

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

Students meeting the automatic screening, classroom screening, or parental screening are **referred** for gifted testing. Once referred for testing:

- Parent receives and signs a *Parent Notification for Testing Consent Form*
- Student is evaluated for gifted services
- Eligibility is determined; parents are notified.

When does screening and testing occur?

I. Automatic Screening will take place August - September. Students referred for testing will be assessed October - November. Parents will be notified of eligibility status by late February.

II. Classroom Screening will take place September 21 – October 10. Students referred for testing will be assessed October – November. All parents will be notified of eligibility by late February.

How long is the testing process?

Depending on the grade level of your child and the data which needs to be gathered, gifted testing will consist of approximately one hour sessions each day for one to five days.

What if my child was identified as gifted in another state?

There is no reciprocity between states in regard to gifted education. However, students with documentation of gifted eligibility in another state are referred for testing in APS for the next testing cycle. Students' test scores will be reviewed to determine if any can be utilized in determining Georgia eligibility.

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

No. The automatic screening process, which 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?

Gifted eligibility will be determined based upon the findings of Atlanta Public Schools approved assessments. Private testing or evaluations will not be accepted to establish eligibility for APS gifted services.

Who do I contact about the gifted program at my school?

Each school in APS has a gifted eligibility chairperson and a gifted contact teacher. If you have any questions regarding the gifted program at a specific school, one of these individuals 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. Gifted and Talented Education addresses these unique characteristics and needs by providing an opportunity for gifted students to interact with their intellectual peers as they participate in classes which extend and enrich the core curriculum.

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

In elementary school, gifted students receive five gifted segments each week from a gifted endorsed teacher. Units extend and enrich the CCGPS. If determined eligible services will begin by late February, 2016.

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

In high school, gifted students receive services through Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, Internships, Directed Study, Seminar, and/or Mentorship. Once determined eligible, students will typically begin gifted services at the change of the semester.

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