



Talented and Gifted Screening and Referral Process

The Talented and Gifted program in Fulton County School System provides enriching experiences for the intellectually advanced and exceptionally creative student. Gifted services are available in all Fulton County Schools for students in kindergarten through grade 12. All procedures for identification and service of gifted students meet guidelines of Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.38.

What is the process for having my child tested for TAG?

The Fulton County School System screens students for eligibility for gifted services twice a year.

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

- **Standardized Tests**
Students must have a minimum of an 85th percentile and a 90th percentile in two of the three areas: Total Reading, Total Math, and Complete Battery.
- **Criterion-Referenced Competency Test**
Students must score in the top 20 percent on the reading or mathematics section when compared to all other students in the system.
- **Grades (high school only)**
Students must have an overall cumulative average of 95 or greater.

II. Classroom Screening - Local schools select a two-week period in the winter to review all students in their school.

- Classroom teachers use the *Characteristics Instrument for Screening Students (CISS)* to identify students with superior abilities in five or more of the following areas: motivation, interests, communications skills, problem-solving abilities, memory, inquiry, insight, reasoning, creativity, and humor. Parents may request to view their child's screening results.

Students meeting either the automatic screening OR classroom screening criteria AND having supporting data gathered from test history, products, and/or advanced content levels are **referred** for gifted testing. Once referred for testing:

- Parent receives *Parent Notification for Testing Consent Form*
- Student tests for the gifted program
- Parent receives test results
- If state eligibility is determined, students are placed in the TAG program.

When does screening occur?

I. The Automatic Screening will take place in August. Students referred for testing will be tested September-October. All parents will be notified of eligibility by November 2009.

II. The Classroom Screening will take place for a two-week period from January 5 -February 26, 2010. Each school will select the two-week period that best fits it overall school calendar. Students referred for testing will be tested January-March. All parents will be notified of eligibility by May 2010.

How long is the testing process?

Depending upon the age and needs of the student, testing will require one to four days of one hour sessions. Once tests are administered, eligibility will be determined and parents notified by the local school within 4 to 6 weeks.

What tests are administered?

For any child who is referred for gifted testing, Fulton County Schools is required to gather information in the following areas: Mental Ability, Creativity, Achievement, and Motivation. The grade level and former testing experiences of a child determine exactly which instruments will be administered. During the testing process, the TAG Eligibility Team may request your consent to administer one or more of the following instruments: Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT), Torrance Test of Creative Thinking (TTCT), Stanford Achievement Test (STAT-10), and/or Gifted Rating Scales-Motivation (GRS-M). Each specific instrument is only administered to the student once every two years. For a more detailed description of each instrument, please see the Q&A entitled "Talented and Gifted: Testing Process (Grades K-5)."

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

No, TAG teachers will begin the school year by completing the automatic screening process. Teachers are not contracted during the summer to administer tests for gifted services.

Who do I contact for information about the TAG program at the school?

Each school in Fulton County has a TAG teacher. If you have any questions regarding the TAG program at a specific school, s/he will be able to help you.

What are the benefits of the TAG program?

Intellectually gifted and exceptionally creative students have unique learning characteristics, interests, personal needs, and capabilities. The Fulton County Schools TAG program addresses these unique characteristics and needs by providing an opportunity for gifted students to interact with intellectual peers as they participate in classes that extend and enrich the basic curriculum.

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

In elementary school, gifted students leave their regular classroom one day a week and receive instruction from the TAG teacher on units that extend and enrich the social studies and science curriculum. Once determined eligible, students will begin gifted services in the first semester of the school year.

In middle school, gifted students attend one to four advanced content courses each day. 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 in the first semester of the school year.

In high school, gifted students have a variety of options. The student attends advisement conferences with a TAG teacher at least three times each year. The ninth grade-gifted student attends a required gifted seminar the first semester in high school. Beyond the first semester of ninth grade, options for the gifted student include seminars, individual projects, AP courses, Directed Studies, career internships (11th and 12th grades only), joint enrollment, and International Baccalaureate. Once determined eligible, students will begin gifted services in the first semester of the school year.

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For more information, contact the Talented and Gifted Office at (404) 763-6811.



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