



# Middle School TAG Placements

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## **How is TAG placement decided for my child?**

The TAG and general education teachers work together to apply the criteria for middle school TAG placements. Students are recommended for the maximum number of TAG classes for which they meet the Middle School Initial Placement Criteria. Alternative Placement Criteria may be used for recommending an additional TAG class.

**My child qualifies for multiple TAG classes. What should I consider when making the decision regarding the number of TAG classes he/she should take?** Students are academically ready for the rigor of instruction in the TAG classes for which they meet the Initial Placement Criteria. However, other factors such as, organizational and time management, skills, study skills, maturity, and outside activities, contribute to a student's ultimate success in their classes. Students may opt to take fewer than the recommended number of classes and may add additional TAG classes each year in middle school based on classroom performance and the Continuous Achievement guidelines.

## **Why is there no TAG Math or TAG Language Arts?**

Students with gifts and talents in mathematics and language arts typically continue with their advanced or accelerated placements from elementary school and each subsequent school year based on the Fulton County's Continuous Achievement guidelines. Advanced and accelerated courses are comprised of all students who require that level of instruction.

## **What is the difference between the TAG Science and on level Science? TAG Social Studies and on level Social Studies?**

The core curriculum is the same. All teachers are required to teach the Georgia Standards of Excellence for a course. TAG classes are further differentiated with the inclusion of Fulton County Schools' locally developed TAG standards for advanced research, advanced communication, critical thinking, and creative thinking skills. In order to address these additional standards, TAG teachers will vary the pace, depth, and complexity of the general education curriculum by requiring extensive work outside of the traditional text and through long-term assignments.

## **What are the requirements for my child to remain in TAG classes?**

Students must maintain an average grade of 80% at the end of each grading period to remain in a TAG class. If a student's final grade is less than 80%, he/she will be placed on probation and provided an opportunity to improve the grade. Students must maintain an 80% average or greater for each subsequent grading period to remain eligible for the TAG class. Probationary periods do not carry over to the following school year. Students may also be placed on probation if he/she did not obtain a Proficient level on the Georgia Milestones assessment in the specific content area. Students new to Fulton County may be placed on probationary status upon registering if the previous system academic records indicate the need for monitoring.

**How and when can my child add a TAG class?** Placements are reviewed annually by the TAG teachers. Students may add additional TAG classes each year if they have demonstrated success in their other classes and have met the Continuous Achievement guidelines.

### **My child is excited, but anxious about the difficulty of the TAG classes in Middle School. What advice should I give to him/her?**

Students should be encouraged to speak with their teachers if they experience difficulties and take advantage of the support system offered to middle school students. A transitional period is to be expected and parents can support the transition by providing a quiet space and time to do homework and by assisting students in planning how to complete long-term assignments.

### **Initial Placement Criteria for Middle School TAG Classes in Science and Social Studies**

In addition to eligibility requirements for gifted services, gifted students are placed in advanced content courses on the basis of achievement scores, past academic performance, and teacher recommendations:

- Recommendation from the current teacher of the content area(s)
- 90% average or better in the content area(s)
- Test scores within two years on a nationally-normed achievement test as follows:
  - Social Studies at or above the 90th percentile in Social Studies
  - Science at or above the 90th percentile in Science
- Math and Language Arts placements are made each year based on the Fulton County Continuous Achievement guidelines.

### **Alternative Placement Criteria**

Alternative criteria for content placement exist for service in TAG Science and Social Studies only as follows:

- The rising sixth grade student who is eligible for gifted services but does not meet the Initial Placement criteria for any content area.
- The rising sixth, seventh, or eighth grade student who would like to add an additional placement but does not meet the middle school Initial Placement criteria for that specific content area.

The following criteria may be used to add a TAG Science or TAG\_Social studies class. Alternative Placement Criteria is not used for Math and ELA placements.

- Eligible for TAG services
- Recommendation of teacher of the content area- this recommendation must be content specific and support placement utilizing professional judgement.
- Two of the following, with at least one addressing the specific content area
  - Final class average of 90% or higher in 4<sup>th</sup> grade or first semester of 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the content area.
  - Multiple work samples or products that are exemplary in nature (for example: Science or Social Studies Fair placement)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade Iowa Achievement score of 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or better in the Science or Social Studies content area
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade Georgia Milestones End of Grade Assessment Distinguished Level 4 in the Science or Social Studies content area
  - Iowa Achievement score  $\geq$  90% in Total Reading (may only be used for one placement decision)
  - Final class average  $\geq$  80% or better in an advanced or accelerated Mathematics or ELA class.