



Gifted and Talented Screening Information

Under regulation 43-220, the State Board of Education outlines specific procedures for identifying gifted and talented students. "Gifted and Talented students are those who are identified in grades three through twelve as demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic and/or artistic areas and therefore require an educational program beyond that normally provided by the general school program in order to achieve their potential." (24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-220.1(A)(1))

All Darlington County students in grade 2 will be screened for gifted and talented services. Students in grades 3-11 may also be referred for GT screening by administrators, parents, and teachers. If eligible, students in grades 3-11 can be retested. In order to be eligible for testing, they must have scored in the **70th national percentile or higher** on either test. You may check for your child's scores from the school counselor. The gifted and talented referral period for this year is **August 1-September 9, 2022**.

What is the Gifted and Talented Program like in Darlington County?

The Gifted and Talented Program is an ELA, Math and Social Studies-based curriculum. The course work is designed to challenge the gifted child and encourage him or her to think and problem solve.

- In grades 3-5, students participate in GT ELA and Math.
- In grades 6-12, students participate in GT ELA, Math, Social Studies classes, and Honors & AP courses.

How can my child qualify for the Gifted and Talented Program?

The first way for your child to qualify for the gifted and talented program is by scoring a TOTAL score of 96% or above on a reasoning abilities test in Dimension A. This qualifies your child

automatically. The second way your child may qualify for gifted and talented is by meeting the appropriate scoring in 2 of the 3 different dimensions. The dimensions are described as follows:

Dimension A: Reasoning Abilities

If your child does not automatically qualify, he/she must then meet the criteria in 2 different dimensions. Two qualifying scores in the same dimension do not count. In order to use Dimension A as one of the two qualifying dimensions, your child must score a 93% or higher in the National Age Percentile on any of the subtests or in the TOTAL category. The qualifying subtests are:

- Verbal/Linguistic
- Nonverbal
- Mathematical/Quantitative.

If your child scores 93% or higher in any one of the categories mentioned above, then he/she has met the criteria for Dimension A. Further screening is required to see if he or she has met the criteria in Dimension B or C.

In Darlington School District, the Cognitive Aptitude Test (CogAT) is used to measure reasoning abilities. The CogAT testing window for all students in the 2nd grade and students in grades 3-11 who were referred will be from **October 10, 2022 to October 28, 2022**. Any child in grades 3-12 can be tested as long as they are eligible and an online screening referral form is submitted on or before **September 9, 2022**.

Dimension B: Academic Achievement

In order to use Dimension B as one of the two qualifying dimensions, your child must:

- Score a 94% or higher in the National Age Percentile on the reading comprehension or

mathematical concepts/problem solving subtest/ Total mathematics. If your child scores 94% or higher on this test, he/she meets the criteria for Dimension B.

In Darlington County School District, the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) is used to measure academic achievement. The ITBS testing window for all students in the 2nd grade and students in grades 3-11 who were referred will be from **October 10, 2022 to October 28, 2022**. Any child in grades 3-12 can be tested as long as they are eligible and an online screening referral form is submitted on or before **September 9, 2022**.

Dimension C: Academic Performance

This dimension is based on your child's ability to perform. This dimension is measured by the Statewide Performance Task Assessment (PTA). This dimension relies on the specific grade your child will be entering in the upcoming school year. The PTA test will be administered **February 21-March 17, 2023**.

In order to use Dimension C as one of the two qualifying dimensions, your child must:

- Score 16 or higher on the verbal or non-verbal portion of the test if he/she is entering grade 3.
- Score 18 or higher on the verbal or non-verbal portion of the test if he/she is entering grade 4.
- Score 16 or higher on the verbal or 22 or higher on the non-verbal portion of the test if he/she is entering grade 5.
- Score 18 or higher on the verbal or 25 or higher on the non-verbal portion of the test if he/she is entering grade 6.

The PTA is used to determine Dimension C criteria until the child is entering 7th grade or higher. Then, the overall yearly grade point average or GPA is used. An academic GPA of 3.75 or higher automatically qualifies a student in Dimension C only.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do parents have to sign anything in order for a child to be tested for the gifted and talented program?

Parental permission is not required to administer the gifted and talented assessment to students in the 2nd grade. However, an online referral must be submitted for students in grades 3-11 before September 9, 2022 if they would like to be tested. Please check the district's webpage at www.darlington.k12.sc.us for the link to the referral application.

How do I find out my child's test scores?

Specific test scores are in your child's permanent records. For more information, feel free to contact the school's counselor. Students who have been tested and qualify for gifted and talented will receive a letter in mid to late July of 2023.

How long will my child's test scores remain valid?

Qualifying test data cannot be more than 2 years old.



For more information about the Gifted and Talented Program, please contact:

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