Advanced Academic Services: Tiers of Services and Screening Window Overview for Grades K-8

October 2023

Office of Advanced Academic Services

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WELCOMING

Essential Questions

How do Advanced Academic Services (AAS) meet the needs of ACPS students?

How does ACPS identify students for AAS services starting in Kindergarten?

How do I submit a referral and other forms on PowerSchool?

Screening Timeline

The referral deadlines are set to align with testing windows during the ACPS school year, including, NNAT or CogAT assessments, Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments, and end-of-quarter progress reports.

Current Grade and Service Type	Referral Window Opens	Referral Deadline	Parent/Guardian eligibility notification will occur by:
Grades 5-8 SAA	August 21, 2023	September 30, 2023	November 1, 2023
Grades K-8 (GIA and SAA)	October 1, 2023	January 31, 2024	By May 2024

Note: Eligibility in a particular area is valid through 12th grade. You do not need to resubmit a referral for an area your child is already eligible for services.

Virginia Regulation: 8VAC20-40

School divisions are required to identify gifted K-12 students and provide instructional services to meet their needs.

Virginia Department of Education Definition of "Gifted"

"**Gifted students** means those students...
who **demonstrate** high levels of
accomplishment or who show the **potential**
for higher levels of accomplishment when
compared to others of the same age,
experience, or environment."

ACPS Equity for All- 2025 Strategic Plan

Students are **engaged in classroom instruction, have access to the educational resources needed to enhance their learning**, and participate in **safe, friendly, and welcoming environments**.

Division-wide priorities and programs that **will eliminate opportunity and achievement gaps** as well as ensure that all students graduate ready for college, careers, and life.

History of ACPS: https://www.acps.k12.va.us/about-us/history-of-acps

Division Operational Definition of Giftedness

ACPS identifies students in need of Advanced Academic Services (AAS) who have the potential to achieve at high academic levels. ACPS addresses the various levels of advanced academic interventions the schools and staff will provide for students through an advanced academic services model incorporating the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) across grades K-12 using a three-tiered system.

Local Plan for Gifted: Approved June 2023 Overview of Guiding Principles
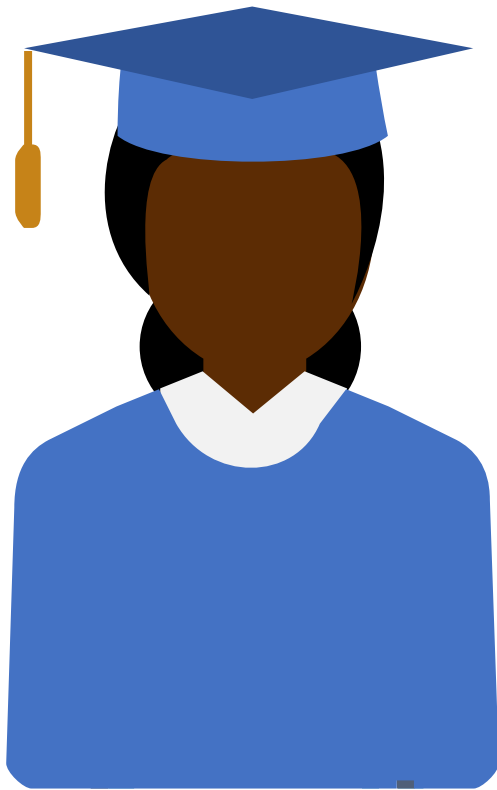
1 Move to Advanced Academic Services (AAS) from Talented and Gifted (TAG).

2 Adopt a Talent Development Model Theoretical Framework as a foundation of gifted programming in ACPS.

3 Develop an advanced academic services model incorporating the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) used across ACPS that focuses on intervention services.

4 Provide access to rigor for all students through high-quality, Tier 1 instruction.

5 Align pacing and standards with gifted curriculum and instructional practices.

6 Build capacity amongst school leaders, staff, students, and families.

Additional (Condensed) Differences Between the 2012 Plan and 2023 Plan

SAA Math: Focus is beyond acceleration and moves to a model of enrichment, some acceleration, and extensions with a requirement to use gifted resources.
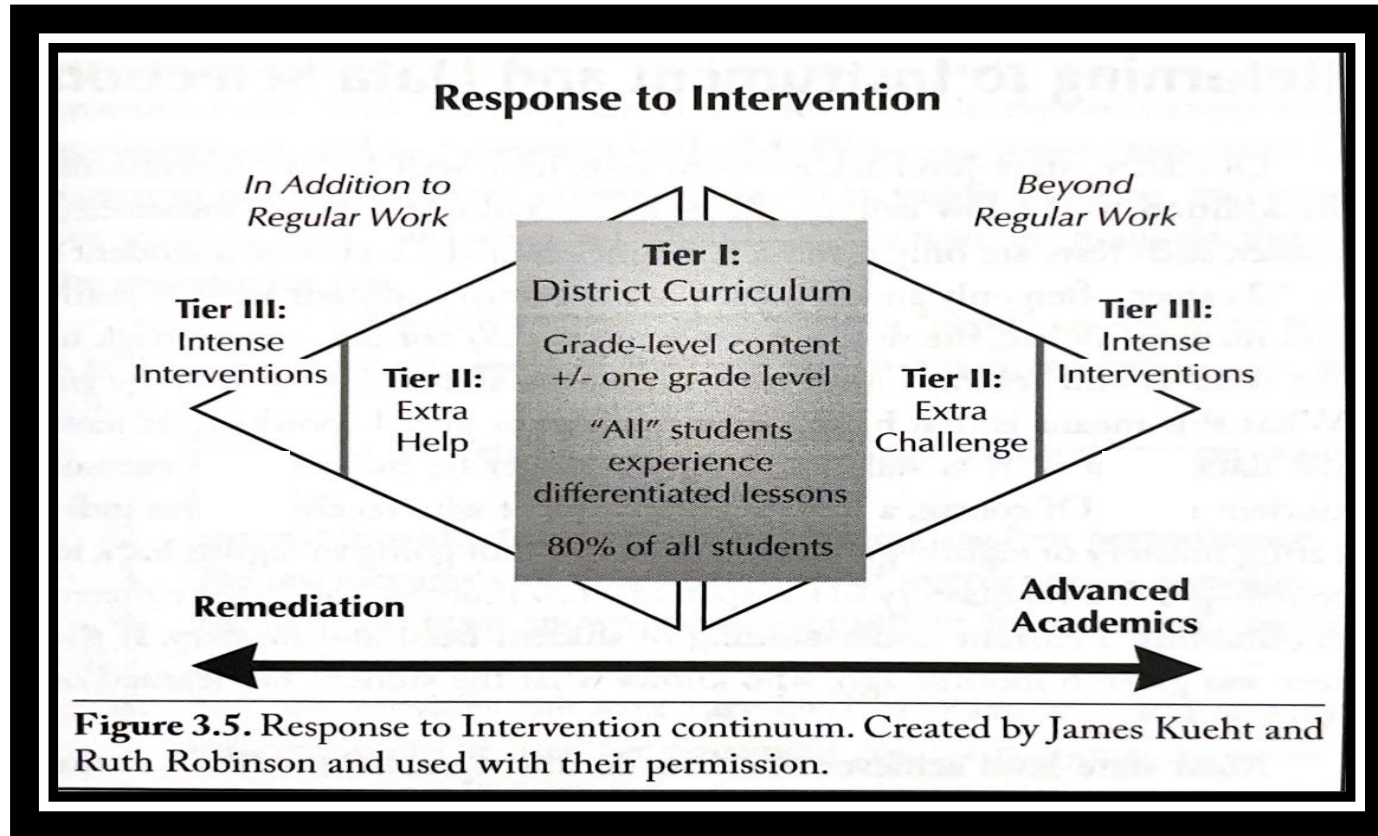
Universal screening will occur in Grade 3.

CogAT and NNAT testing grade levels shift.

Implement an Early Childhood Talent Development Model in Grades K-3.

A more extensive crosswalk will be available at www.acps.k12.va.us/aas by early November.

Three Tiers of Services

Figure 3.5. Response to Intervention continuum. Created by James Kueht and Ruth Robinson and used with their permission.

Tier I
- Critical and Creative Thinking for All

Tier II
- Young Scholars (YS)
- General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA)- Grade K-12

Tier III
- Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA)- Grades 4-12

Grades K-3 Early Childhood Talent Development Model (Tiers I-II)

Provides all students access to rigor

Identifies and nurtures strengths and potential

Cultivates growth attitudes and mindsets

Aligns with gifted practices and uses gifted resources

Supports the Young Scholars and General Intellectual Aptitude programs and models

"The concept of giftedness is not static, but developmental... Ability evolves and shifts across the lifespan, where generalized ability turns into specialized abilities."[1]

The early childhood years should focus on the developmental and not the static.

[1]Source: Paula Olszewski-Kubillus, Rena F. Subotnik, Frank C. Worrell (2021) Talent Development as a Framework for Gifted Education: Implications for Best Practices and Applications in Schools

Grades K-3 Early Childhood Talent Development Model

The Advanced Academic Support Teacher (AAST) will also plan, co-teach, model, and work in small groups in all classrooms, either once a week or once every two weeks, depending on the school size.

Research-Based Gifted Resources

High Rigor Instructional Practices

Connected to VA Standards

Aligned with ACPS Pacing

Kindergarten Talent Development Model Toolkit
Quarter 1

Tier II: General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA) Services

Grades K-3

Occur within the General Education Classroom

Designed to Enrich and Extend the Curriculum

Experiences Involve Making Connections Across the Subjects

GIA Services Continue if Student is Not Eligible for SAA Services

Quarterly Differentiated Education Plans (DEP) Developed in Grades K-8

Tier III: Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) Services
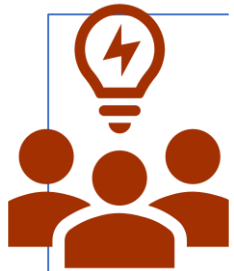
Grades 4-5: Math and Language Arts

- Direct instruction from a teacher trained in gifted instruction
- Curriculum resources and strategies are aligned with gifted research and VDOE standards
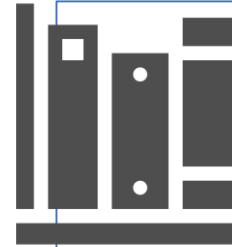
Grades 4-5: Social Studies and Science

- Services occur in the general education classroom and are provided by the general education classroom teacher
- Differentiated Education Plans (DEPs) are provided to caregivers outlining the extension activities for students

Grades 6-12: Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies

- Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- Dual enrollment (DE) in college courses
- Access to summer Governor's School
- Online course
- Independent studies

Differentiated Education Plan (DEP)

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADVANCED ACADEMIC SERVICES DIFFERENTIATED EDUCATION PLAN (DEP)

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Date: _____ Written By: _____ Services Provided By: _____ Quarter 1 2 3 4

Identification area: ☐GIA   ☐SAA Science (Grades 4-8)   ☐SAA Social Studies (Grades 4-8)   ☐ELA (Grades 6-8)

Purpose
The purpose of this document is to communicate how the academic needs of your child will be met through differentiated strategies. The DEP is a supplement to your child's progress report. It explains the academic enrichment that will be provided quarterly for students receiving General Intellectual Ability (GIA) and Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) services. The GIA program focuses on enriched & integrated classroom activities designed to enhance creativity and problem-solving without being specifically tied to any one subject area. The SAA program focuses on direct instruction in a particular content area.

Subject Area and Learning Objective	Type of Enrichment Activity/Project/Strategy	Brief Description of Enrichment Activity/Project
☐ Language Arts/ ELA ☐ Math ☐ Science ☐ Social Studies **Learning Objective:** The student will…	☐ Tiered Assignments ☐ Concept-Based Instruction Units ☐ Enrich or accelerate content through thematic or interdisciplinary units ☐ Provide more depth and complex assignments and/or advanced content ☐ Address and solve real-world problems through critical and divergent thinking ☐ Problem-Based Units ☐ Higher-Level Questioning ☐ Independent Study or Individualized Projects ☐ Academic Competition ☐ Other	

Optional Student Response: What are you looking forward to this quarter?

_____

Original: Student AAS folder, CC: Parent (quarterly)   TAG Form 10B (DEP)   Rev. 8/23

- **Purpose:** A document describing the differentiation activities planned for students each quarter

- **Target Audience:**
  - ✔ K-8 GIA students
  - ✔ 4-5 elementary students identified for SAA science or social studies services
  - ✔ 6-8 middle school students identified in SAA language arts, science, or social studies.

- **Creators/ Collaborators:** Created by the general education teacher. Collaboration with the teacher may occur between the student and parent(s).

What is the beginning timeline for Grades K-8 Screening (GIA and SAA)?

October 1,- January 31	January 31	By Feb 7	Due February 20
• Referral window is open in PowerSchool	• All referrals must be submitted in PowerSchool and hard copy referrals submitted by this date. • If the referral deadline lands on a weekend, hard copy referrals must be submitted by COB before the weekend. • No referrals will be accepted after this date.	• Referral confirmation email to be sent to parents/guardians • Form 2: Permission to Screen and Optional Parent/Guardian Questionnaire is opened for submission in PowerSchool	• Form 2: Permission to Screen and Optional Parent/Guardian Questionnaire is due in PowerSchool • Continued screening cannot occur until Form 2: Permission to Screen is submitted.

What is the ending timeline for GIA (Grades K-3)[1] and SAA (Grades 4-8)[2] services?

February – March
- Date collection: observation scale, progress reports, multiple work samples, achievement tests, ability tests

By April 5[3]
- Eligibility notifications and matrix forms are sent via U.S. Mail to the mailing address in PowerSchool
- Form 3: Permission to Place form sent home (if eligible)
- Appeals information sent home

Due by April 19
- The appeals window closes in PowerSchool
- Any optional information is sent to aas@acps.k12.va.us

June 1, 2023
- Final appeals decisions mailed to the home address in PowerSchool

[1]GIA services are determined in Phase 1 and Phase 2 for students in Grades K-3.
[2] As we phase in the updated Local Plan for the Gifted, universal screening for new students in Grades 4-5 will begin during the 2024-2025 school year once all schools have two advanced academic support teachers (AASTs) at each elementary school.
[3] Due to spring break being in March, notification will be extended by one week in April.

How is the ending timeline for Grade 3 students screened for SAA services in Grade 4 the Following Year?

February – March (Phase 2)	April-May 15 (Phase 3)	By May 15	Due by June 1	By July 15

- Data collection: observation scale, brief observation narrative, progress reports, work samples, achievement tests, ability tests
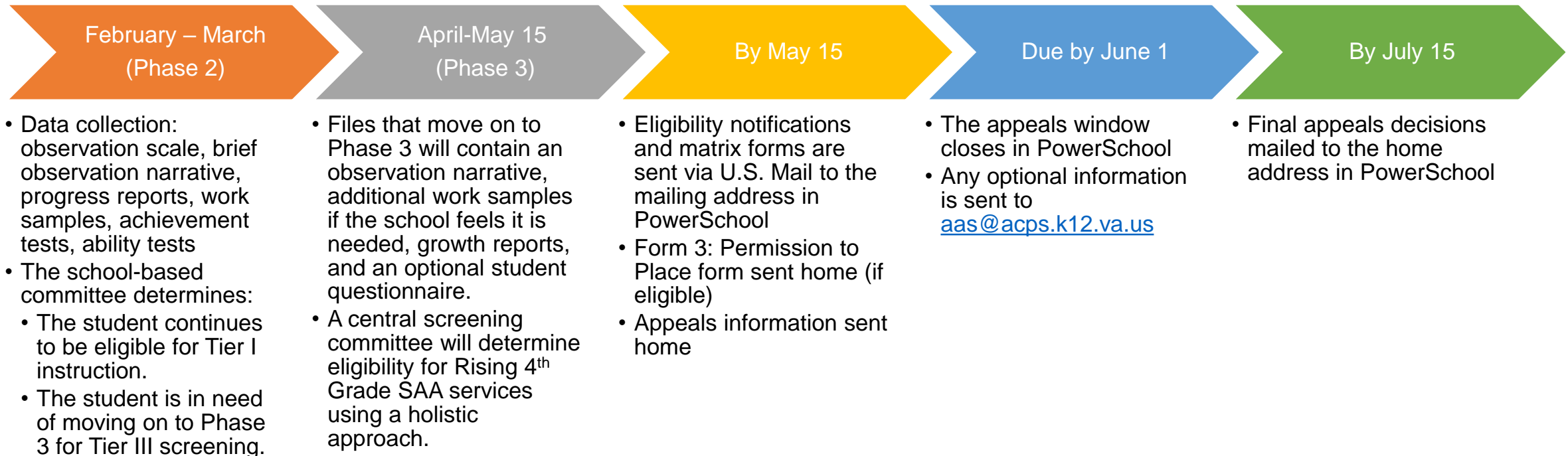- The school-based committee determines:
  - The student continues to be eligible for Tier I instruction.
  - The student is in need of moving on to Phase 3 for Tier III screening.

- Files that move on to Phase 3 will contain an observation narrative, additional work samples if the school feels it is needed, growth reports, and an optional student questionnaire.
- A central screening committee will determine eligibility for Rising 4th Grade SAA services using a holistic approach.

- Eligibility notifications and matrix forms are sent via U.S. Mail to the mailing address in PowerSchool
- Form 3: Permission to Place form sent home (if eligible)
- Appeals information sent home

- The appeals window closes in PowerSchool
- Any optional information is sent to aas@acps.k12.va.us

- Final appeals decisions mailed to the home address in PowerSchool

How does the screening process begin?

PowerSchool Submitted Referral: Grades K-8

- Parents/Guardians
- Instructional Staff

Hard Copy Submitted Referral: Grades K-8

- Students
- Community Members

Universal Screener Grade using Automatic Referral- Grade 3

- Ability Scores- 85th percentile or higher*
- Achievement Scores- 85th percentile or higher on the most recent MAP test*
- Observation Scale- Top 15% of the grade level at the school*
- All Young Scholars

Automatic Referral (Grades 4-5)

- All Young Scholars

*These scores are meant to widen the screening pool but are not automatic scores for eligibility.

PowerSchool

Many forms for AAS screening are in PowerSchool. Please reach out to your school technology specialist if you need help getting on.
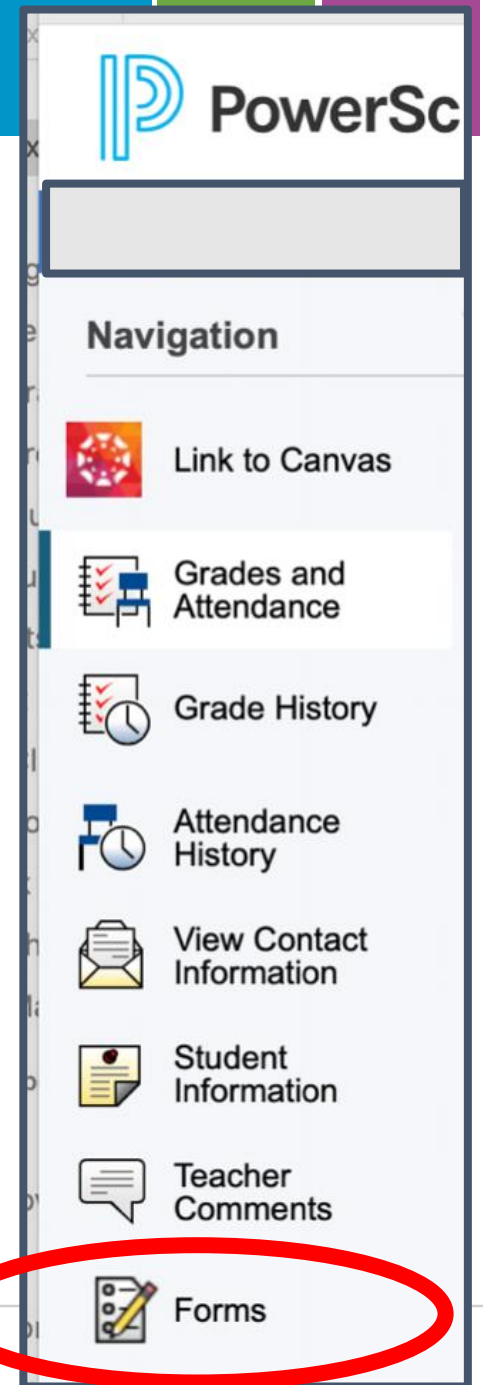
Power School Form Steps: Referral Steps 1-3

Step 1: Log into your PowerSchool Parent Access account.

Step 2: Choose the student/child you would like to refer.

Step 3: Click on "Forms."

Power School Form Steps: Referral Step 4-5

Step 4: Choose "2023-2024 Referral Form of Students for Advanced Academic Services (AAS)."

Step 5: Select your preferred language.

Power School Form Steps: Referral Steps 6-7

Step 6: Complete the form.

Step 7: Click the blue "SUBMIT" button.

REFERRAL FORM OF STUDENT FOR ADVANCED ACADEMIC SERVICES (AAS)

Please complete this referral form for a student you wish to refer for Advanced Academic Services (AAS). AAS are provided for students whose achievement exceeds the grade level curriculum despite significant differentiation. Please submit the completed form to the AAS Screening Lead at the student's school by the deadlines noted on the second page of this form.

Student First and Last Name:		
School:	Grade:	ID #:

Please explain why the student should be considered for AAS in the space below.

Form 2: Permission to Screen and Questionnaire

Sent after 2/5/24

Combined forms from last year

Located in PowerSchool

Permission is required

The AAS office will send to parents via a confirmation letter after the referral deadline

ACPS
Alexandria City Public Schools

Written Permission for Advanced Academic Services Evaluation & Additional Information

Your child has been referred for Advanced Academic Services (AAS). For your child to be screened for AAS, ACPS requires permission from the parent/guardian to obtain additional information, which may include cognitive testing. This form contains permission-to-screen information and a space to provide optional additional information you would like to share about your child. **Please return this form to the AAS Screening lead within 10 instructional days of receiving the confirmation letter.**

Permission to Screen

I give permission for my child to be evaluated on appropriately selected measures of ability and/or achievement as requested by the Identification/Placement Committee. This evaluation aims to help determine the student's eligibility for Advanced Academic Services. I understand that the evaluation results are restricted to professional use within Alexandria City Public Schools and are available to me for interpretation and discussion. I understand the results are kept in a confidential file in the school's office.

Student First and Last Name:			ID #:
School:	Grade:	Homeroom Teacher:	
Signature of Parent/Guardian:		Date:	
Print Name of Parent/Guardian:			

Optional Information:

As a parent/guardian, you have unique opportunities to see your child in play, work, and family settings. Please share your observations with us so we can better understand your child. This may include information about out-of-school activities and interests, how they are as learners, what motivates them, their leadership or creativity skills, or what brings them joy.

Criteria Used to Determine Eligibility

Ability Assessment

Standardized Achievement Scores

Observation Scales

Progress Reports

Work Samples (if needed)

Observations (determined by the appeals committee)

Optional Parent Information (submitted via Form 2 or the appeals process)

GIA and SAA Standardized Testing Information

Ability (GIA and SAA)

- Any ability test (such as a CogAT, NNAT, WISC) on file will be used.
- Ability tests will only be given to students who do not have an ability test already on file. Grades 4-8: Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT) or K-1: Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test
- CogAT testing for 2023-2024 will be given in Grades 2 and 3.
- NNAT will be given in Grade 3 starting in 2025-2026.

Achievement (SAA and GIA)

- Winter MAP scores
- SOL scores

Similar Matrix to previous years for **GIA** (Grades K-3) and **SAA** (Grades 4-8)

Alexandria City Public Schools Advanced Academic Services

Advanced Academic Services (AAS) Eligibility Profile
General Intellectual Ability (GIA)- Grades K-3
Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA)- Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies- Grades 4-8

Student Name:		ID #:		Grade:	Screening Window: 2023-2024
School:					
Gender:	Age:	DOB:	Ethnicity:		EL Level:
504 Plan:		IEP/ Specialized Services*:			
Current AAS Eligible Status	YS:	GIA:	SAA LA:	SAA Math:	SAA SS:	SAA Sci:
Parent Name 1:			Parent Name 2:		
Parent 1 Phone Number:			Parent 2 Phone Number:		
Parent 1 Email:			Parent 2 Email:		
Primary Street Address:				Alexandria, VA	Zip Code:

*If the student has an IEP, please check with the student's case manager to see if any assessment information is relevant to AASS screening (may include WISC, Kaufman, etc...).

Summary Chart:

- To qualify for **General Intellectual Ability** (GIA) services, a student must have "Advanced" ratings in three categories, one of which must be a standardized ability test.
- To qualify for **Specific Academic Aptitude** (SAA) services, a student must have "Advanced" ratings in three categories, one of which must be a standardized ability and/or achievement test in the area being screened.

Place an "X" if the category falls within the "Advanced" range. For each subject screened, if the student is eligible, please place an "X" under the "E" column; if a student is ineligible, please place an "X" under the NE column.

Subject	Referral (R)	Advanced Criteria Met						Initial Eligibility Status		Eligibility Status After Appeal#	
		Ability	Achievement	Standards-Based	Observation Scale	Work Sample	Other#	E	NE	E	NE
GIA (Grades K-3)											
SAA- Language Arts (Grades 4-8)											
SAA- Math (Grades 4-8)											
SAA- Social Studies* (Grades 4-8)											
SAA- Science* (Grades 4-8)											

* Social Studies and Science require a referral and are not a part of the automatic referral process.
# For appeal or oversight use only. "Other" may include additional work samples, observations, growth percentiles, special program consideration, or parent narratives.

School-Based Committee Members for Initial Screening   Meeting Date: _____

AAS Screening Lead*	Counselor*
Classroom Teacher*	School Administrator/Designee*
AAS Teacher*	Curriculum Specialist/Coach
Other:	

*core member

Last Name, First Name _____ ID # _____ AAS Screening 2023-2024- Page **1** of 4

Part 1: Standardized Ability Results

Qualification Key: Use the chart below to determine the advanced status of each subject. If the box has an "x" in it, you may use that test battery to determine "Advanced" for the screened subject.

Subject Area	NNAT Nonverbal	CogAT Verbal	CogAT Quantitative	CogAT Nonverbal	CogAT VQN
General Intellectual Aptitude	X	X	X	X	X
Language Arts	X	X		X	X
Math	X		X	X	X
Social Studies	X	X		X	X
Science	X	X		X	X

For each test score below, place a circle in the box where the score falls within the categorical range.

	Year	Percentile	Age Score	Below Average	Average	Above Average	High	Advanced
NNAT				Percentile: ≤24 NAI: ≤89	Percentile: 25-75 NAI: 90-110	Percentile: 76-91 NAI: 111-120	Percentile: 92-95 NAI: 121-125	Percentile: 96+ NAI: 126-160
CogAT Verbal				Percentile: ≤24 SAS: ≤89	Percentile: 25-75 SAS: 90-110	Percentile: 76-91 SAS: 111-120	Percentile: 92-95 SAS: 121-125	Percentile: 96+ SAS: 126-160
CogAT Quantitative				Percentile: ≤24 SAS: ≤89	Percentile: 25-75 SAS: 90-110	Percentile: 76-91 SAS: 111-120	Percentile: 92-95 SAS: 121-125	Percentile: 96+ SAS: 126-160
CogAT Nonverbal				Percentile: ≤24 SAS: ≤89	Percentile: 25-75 SAS: 90-110	Percentile: 76-91 SAS: 111-120	Percentile: 92-95 SAS: 121-125	Percentile: 96+ SAS: 126-160
CogAT VQN				Percentile: ≤24 SAS: ≤89	Percentile: 25-75 SAS: 90-110	Percentile: 76-91 SAS: 111-120	Percentile: 92-95 SAS: 121-125	Percentile: 96+ SAS: 126-160

Additional Information: Name of Ability Test: _____

	Year	Percentile	Age Score	Below Average	Average	Above Average	High	Advanced
Other: Verbal				Percentile: ≤24 NAI: ≤89	Percentile: 25-75 NAI: 90-110	Percentile: 76-91 NAI: 111-120	Percentile: 92-95 NAI: 121-125	Percentile: 96+ NAI: 126-160
Other: Quantitative				Percentile: ≤24 SAS: ≤89	Percentile: 25-75 SAS: 90-110	Percentile: 76-91 SAS: 111-120	Percentile: 92-95 SAS: 121-125	Percentile: 96+ SAS: 126-160
Other: Nonverbal				Percentile: ≤24 SAS: ≤89	Percentile: 25-75 SAS: 90-110	Percentile: 76-91 SAS: 111-120	Percentile: 92-95 SAS: 121-125	Percentile: 96+ SAS: 126-160
Other: Full				Percentile: ≤24 SAS: ≤89	Percentile: 25-75 SAS: 90-110	Percentile: 76-91 SAS: 111-120	Percentile: 92-95 SAS: 121-125	Percentile: 96+ SAS: 126-160

GIA Services: A student must have an "Advanced" rating on a standardized ability (Part 1). Please circle "Yes" or "No" if this criterion was met in Part 1. A note to screening leads- If a student is advanced in all other areas on this chart besides the ability score, please contact the AAS office for additional steps.

SAA Services: A student must have "Advanced" ratings in either the standardized ability (Part 1) or achievement (Part 2) score in the subject screened to qualify for SAA services. Please circle "Yes" or "No" if this criterion was met in Part 1.

GIA- Advanced	LA- Advanced	Math- Advanced	SS - Advanced	Science- Advanced
Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No

Last Name, First Name _____ ID # _____ AAS Screening 2023-2024- Page **2** of 4

How will I be notified of the eligibility decision?

- All parents will receive a copy of the screening matrix form used to determine eligibility.

- Decision letters will be sent via United States Postal Services to the mailing address on file in PowerSchool.

- If your child is eligible for services, you will also receive a "Permission to Place" form which is signed and returned back to the AAS screening lead at your child's school.

What happens if my child is not found eligible for AAS services?

Parents/guardians have the right to appeal the decision of the Identification/Placement Committee **within 10 ACPS instructional days** after being informed of their child's eligibility for services or a decision regarding a change in placement.

You may submit an appeal form via PowerSchool: Advanced Academic Services Appeal.

Additional information sent to: aas@acps.k12.va.us

If your child is ineligible for services, you will receive additional information about the appeals process within the envelope that contains the eligibility and matrix forms.

For questions or additional support please contact your child's AAS screening lead.

HOME > PROGRAMS & SERVICES > ADVANCED ACADEMIC SERVICES (AAS)

Advanced Academic Services (AAS)

www.acps.k12.va.us/AAS

General Overview

Differentiated services beyond the regular curriculum will be provided for children in grades K-12 whose accomplishments and/or demonstrated abilities indicate the need for such services.

"Gifted students" means those students in public elementary and secondary schools, beginning with kindergarten through graduation, whose abilities and potential for accomplishment are so outstanding that they require special programs to meet their educational needs.

TAG DIFFERENTIATION

ADVANCED ACADEMIC SCREENING LEAD (AASL)

AAS REFERRALS
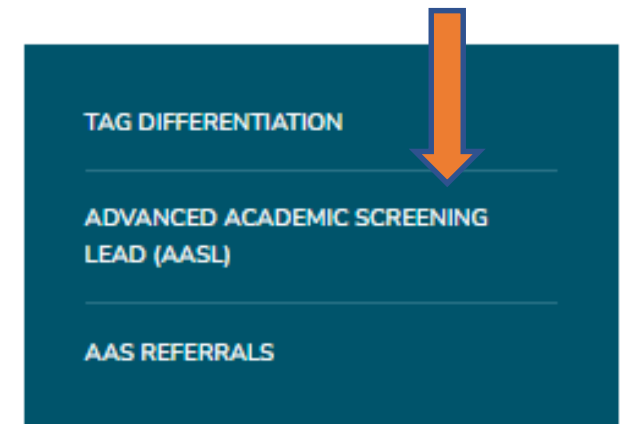
Elementary schools will host optional Parent/Guardian Q&A sessions between November and January 15, 2024. Please be on the lookout for more information from your child's school.