

Gifted Education Information Night Participants Questions

11/12/24

934 total participants logged in

1. When and how will the results of the gifted assessments be made available?
 - a. Local schools and parents can expect to receive results from assessments used in the district's gifted identification process on or before the district's next grading cycle, subsequent to the most recent gifted assessments administered.
2. How long does it take to get the results once child has been tested?
 - a. Test results will vary as all assessments must undergo a data verification process before data is uploaded for gifted use in the student information system.
3. How can I prepare my child to best be assessed for gifted identification?
 - a. Local schools are encouraged to communicate with their respective community groups using the calling post, website, and flyers about any testing administration windows that will take place. Like any assessment, it should be taken seriously, and students being screened should get a good night's sleep, eat a good breakfast, and if not feeling well communicate that to the local school's gifted liaison to reschedule your child's test administration.
4. Can a child's winter or spring MAP score supersede their fall MAP score for gifted eligibility in the Achievement domain?
 - a. Yes. A child's MAP score within either of the assessment windows can be utilized for gifted identification consideration.
5. How will parents receive the results of MAP assessments for their child in the Fall, Winter, and Spring?
 - a. Your child's teacher should be able to provide the MAP results each assessment window. Your child's school counselor and principal/designee should be able to provide MAP results as well. The DeKalb County Schools Assessment Calendar can be found at this link:
<https://dekalbschoolsga.blob.core.windows.net/wpcontent/2024/07/2024-2025-DeKalb-County-School-District-Assessment-Calendar-1.pdf>
6. How are parents notified for further testing? (example: 75-98th percentile —> ITBS)
 - a. The local school's gifted liaison will send home a Parent Consent to Evaluate Form requesting permission for the school to conduct further evaluation for consideration for gifted services.

7. How can I learn more about gifted service models within DeKalb County School District?
 - a. Gifted service models information can be reviewed at this link ("programs" tab):
<https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/gifted/>
8. Our child is in the gifted program but does not have a gifted certified teacher. What type of gifted services should/will she be getting?

Students who are receiving gifted services are to be taught by a teacher who has gifted certification or by a teacher that is actively enrolled in the gifted endorsement program. Know that students may not receive gifted services in all content areas. They may receive gifted services for only one segment of the day. Contact your school's gifted liaison to learn how your child is being served.
9. If my child is tested for the gifted program, who can we reach out to find out if she met the requirements?
 - a. Parent/Guardian notification is communicated by the local school. Parents can expect to receive results from assessments used in the district's gifted identification process on or before the district's grading cycle. Documentation will include a letter of eligibility, Continuation Agreement, Student/Individual Score Report, and a gifted eligibility report of gifted status.
10. Does DeKalb County support skipping a grade if the gifted program in the school is not sufficient?
 - a. If a parent/guardian desires to discuss grade acceleration or skipping grades for their child, they should contact their child's school principal. The grade acceleration process is not under the auspices of the Gifted Education Department. This process lies at the local school level in conjunction with DCSD **Board Policy IHEB:**
Academic Achievement:
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=4054&revid=7r6KfX9meCnEdUJeDhccVQ==&st=grade%20acceleration&mt=Exact>
11. Can a child in Pre-K qualify for gifted education?
 - a. No. Gifted Education within the State of Georgia public schools is assessed for, provided for, and resourced from grades Kindergarten through 12th grade.
12. What is used to determine which type of gifted program model is offered at each school?
 - a. The local school's building administration has the autonomy to determine which delivery models best meet the needs of its gifted population and align with their staffing capacity. These will vary from school to school. The District's Gifted Education team remains available to school administrations to assist with selecting the local school's gifted service delivery model, based on local factors (i.e. number of students identified for gifted, teachers with gifted endorsement, school schedule, etc.).

13. What do you suggest parents do to ensure the school is keeping parents informed and updated throughout the process?
- Local schools are encouraged to communicate with their respective community groups using the calling post, website, and flyers about any testing administration windows that will take place. Parents are encouraged to contact the local school's gifted liaison for any specific questions relative to the gifted testing process.
14. Once your child has been tested, what can we expect?
- Once the gifted identification process is completed and data sets used in this process reside in Student Information System (SIS), parent/guardian notification is communicated by the local school. Parents can expect to receive results from assessments used in the district's gifted identification process on or before the district's grading cycle. Documentation will include a letter of eligibility, Continuation Agreement, Student/Individual Score Report, Local School brochure, and a gifted eligibility report of gifted status. If they are identified as gifted what changes in their education? School leaders routinely conduct learning walks, informal and formal observations of staff to determine the level of student engagement and grade appropriate assigned tasks. Written feedback is given to the teacher to make the necessary lesson plan modification. The Gifted Education Department offers support to local school administration and teachers by offering summer and school year professional learning that covers topics such as differentiation, instructional strategies, and creating an academically challenging environment. Do they move to a different school? No. Although some parents may choose to participate in the School Choice Enrollment Program, this is optional and is not synonymous with gifted identification.
15. What is the District doing to offer growth and development training for Teachers that may be teaching gifted children in courses that may not be deemed as gifted/advanced courses
- The Gifted Education Department offers professional learning to all teachers in the summer and throughout the school year. These sessions address creating an academically challenging environment through topics such as questioning/discussions and feedback/growth mindset. School leaders also regularly observe classrooms within their schools, gifted and otherwise, and provide teachers with feedback, professional development opportunities, and evaluations related to the efficacy and quality of classroom instruction and may also elect to have a customized training session that may better meet the needs of their staff.
16. If my student is eligible for gifted services, when will those services begin?
- Parents can expect their students to begin receiving gifted services in the next semester/school year depending upon when eligibility has been determined. Students that are deemed eligible for gifted services in the Spring can expect to be served in the Fall of the upcoming school year.

17. Is there any way to check my child's current gifted status?
- The local school provides parent notification to parents whose child is being screened for gifted services. This would include the child's individual score reports and eligibility report indicating their gifted status.
18. What are the implications of gifted education for students who have an IEP?
- Any accommodation stated in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan must be adhered to in ensuring the student has access to the curriculum and/or academic standards being taught.
19. If my child was became eligible for gifted education in elementary school, and has maintained gifted status, does the gifted identification carry over to middle school and high school?
- Yes. Once a student is eligible for gifted services, no further evaluation is required to remain gifted-identified.
20. What's different from general curriculum for students receiving gifted services?
- According to Georgia Department of Education Rule 160-4-2-.38 EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR GIFTED STUDENTS, a Differentiated Curriculum means that "courses of study in which the content, teaching strategies, and expectations of student mastery have been adjusted to be appropriate for gifted students." <https://cdn-cms-gadoe-org-fpf4gke0fwd4htef.a03.azurefd.net/app/uploads/2024/11/EDUCATION-PROGRAM-FOR-GIFTED-STUDENTS.pdf>
21. Once students are identified as gifted, how does the District track and evaluate the support they get?
- DCSD's Gifted Education Department is currently comprised of two Senior Gifted Education Coordinators. Those coordinators maintain frequent presence at schools and are in constant communication with gifted teachers, gifted liaisons, and school administrators around gifted education programming needs, features, professional development, identification assessments, and classroom instruction. Additionally, at the District- and school-levels, our MAP assessments report out aggregate results three times per school year on the overall academic outcomes and growth that our gifted students achieve – for monitoring of impact of those supports.
22. What are the additional instructional resources that teachers of gifted course segments will have access to?
- In terms of instructional resources for teachers who have gifted segments, the Gifted Education Department recommends both books and online resources to assist gifted-identified teachers in supporting students as they further develop critical thinking and analytical skills. Additional instructional resources are anticipated for purchase during the 2024-2025 school year- and teachers will be provided extensive training on their effective implementation and usage once secured.

23. Where on the DeKalb County School District website can we find information about Gifted Education?

a. www.DeKalbSchoolsGA.org/Gifted

24. If my child has a qualifying score on at least one of the gifted assessments, do they have to take that same assessment again to be considered for gifted identification at a later date?

a. Not within the timeframe of two years for that same assessment. Scores are valid for two years on a particular assessment for a student to eventually qualify for gifted services in other required domains (i.e. achievement, mental abilities, creativity, motivation)

25. Can a student be assessed for gifted education in a private school setting?

a. No. Students must be enrolled in and attending DeKalb County School District to participate in the gifted assessment process.

26. Can a student be assessed for gifted identification again during another assessment window if they do not qualify the first time?

a. Yes. DeKalb County School District employs two different gifted identification assessment windows during the school year: Fall (October) and Spring (February)

27. Can a gifted-identified student skip or jump a grade?

a. This is an individual case-by-case decision, addressed at the school-level in conjunction with a student's family. Gifted-identification does not influence the process for a student's possible grade acceleration. If a parent/guardian desires to discuss grade acceleration or skipping grades for their child, they should contact their child's school principal. The grade acceleration process is not under the auspices of the Gifted Education Department. This process lies at the local school level in conjunction with DCSD Board Policy IHEB: Academic Achievement:
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=4054&revid=7r6KfX9meCnEdUJeDhccVQ==&st=grade%20acceleration&mt=Exact>

28. What are some of the benefits of having gifted identification?

a. The benefits of gifted identification will include but not limited to increased opportunities for students to be with like-minded peers, instruction at a faster pace to best meet their instructional needs, instruction based on students' strengths and/or interest, receives instruction from a gifted certified/endorsed teacher that is trained in recognizing the unique needs of gifted students by providing open-ended assignments that encourage critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving that may lead to additional academic opportunities for students. Additionally, at the high school level, gifted services are generally provided through advanced placement (AP) course scheduling.

29. Does attendance affect gifted eligibility?
- a. Not directly. However, if a student is frequently absent from school missing valuable classroom instruction, this will likely impact their academic performance, which could reasonably impact their results on various gifted identification assessments.
30. Are there additional educational resources for gifted students outside of the class instruction and the service models that each school may utilize?
- a. There are many resources available to students through Clever/Launchpad. Recommended resources include GALILEO and MackinVia which both offer eBooks for all grade levels. There are also many events offered by the district including, but not limited to: Governor's Honors Program, Fernbank Science Center Events, Tech for Littles: DeKalb's Byte Sized Brilliance Technology Fair, National History Day, DeKalb's Technology Fair, Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl, Science Fair, and Social Studies Fair.
31. Whom should a parent/guardian contact if they are unclear or dissatisfied about the gifted education services provided for their child in the classroom?
- a. In such cases, it is always recommended to contact the teacher directly to further discuss. If a parent/guardian is unable to reach or is dissatisfied with the communication from the teacher about the matter, the parent/guardian can contact the school's principal. If the parent is unable to reach or is dissatisfied with the communication from the principal's office, the parent/guardian can contact the school's area superintendent's office.
32. Is gifted identification valid to the entire county in different schools. Will it be valid in case of a school transfer?
- a. Yes. If a student qualified for gifted education services within any public school in Georgia, this identification transfers with them to any other public school in Georgia.
33. Can parents decide for themselves if their child is enrolled into gifted-identified segments/courses?
- a. While a parent cannot decide for themselves if their child is identified for gifted services, parents are always recommended to communicate with their child's school counselor and/or principal/designee to provide input on their child's academic setting, schedule, and course progression.
34. If the student meets the gifted eligibility, moves away and then returns to Georgia, will they need to be re-referred or reassessed for gifted services?
- a. No. Their initial gifted identification from within the State of Georgia would remain intact.

35. Does charter schools get the same support as public schools in Dekalb County?
- Our DeKalb County School District Department of School Innovation provides regular support for and is in regular contact with charter schools authorized by the DeKalb County School District – in collaboration with multiple Divisions.
<https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/charter-schools/>
36. Does Gifted Education in DeKalb County School District have any direction connection to magnet schools/magnet programming?
- In short, no. While often times students enrolled in DCSD’s magnet programs are gifted-identified and receive gifted services within magnet schools, gifted education services are not tied to magnet schools nor magnet programming. The Gifted Education Department does not govern magnet schools or magnet programming in DeKalb County School District. More information on magnet programming options in DeKalb County School District can be found at this link:
<https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/school-choice/>
37. What role does the Gifted Education Department play in supporting schools to determine the gifted service models they utilize in gifted classrooms?
- The Senior Coordinators for Gifted Education are available to meet with school administrators to discuss models. The school administrators determine the most appropriate model(s) for their schools.
38. How should the curriculum differ within gifted classrooms for gifted students?
- According to Georgia Department of Education Rule 160-4-2-.38 EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR GIFTED STUDENTS, a Differentiated Curriculum means that “courses of study in which the content, teaching strategies, and expectations of student mastery have been adjusted to be appropriate for gifted students.” <https://cdn-cms-gadoe-org-fpf4gke0fwd4htef.a03.azurefd.net/app/uploads/2024/11/EDUCATION-PROGRAM-FOR-GIFTED-STUDENTS.pdf>
39. How does the county validate, and with what cadence, that the school is in fact following the county's gifted program guidance?
- There are several checkpoints during the school year in which leaders must attest to the gifted service models employed by their school for reporting requirements to the Georgia Department of Education. Our Gifted Education Department (currently two Senior Coordinators as of Fall 2024) frequently visit schools, provide professional development on gifted education within schools, and frequently communicates and collaborates with school leaders on matters pertaining to gifted education. The same is true of frequent collaboration and communication with Area Superintendents’ Offices on gifted education matters within schools.
40. Are there any advantages for gifted students in college admissions?
- While each university system has its own admission requirements, it is quite common that within Georgia public schools, gifted services are provided for high school students

via advanced placement courses (advanced content services model). Advanced Placement (AP) courses on a child's high school transcript typically makes their college applications more competitive.

41. If a child is in the gifted program, will he/she go to a different classroom to receive services or will the gifted teacher serve the child in their classroom?
 - a. This will depend on the gifted service model the school utilizes. This decision is derived at the school level based on local school needs, student populations, staffing, etc.
42. Does the District receive any type of funding related to the number of gifted students in each school?
 - a. During the 2024-2025 school year, public school districts within the State of Georgia earn 1.7340 full time enrollments (FTE) for each gifted-identified student's instructional segment in which they are served by a gifted-endorsed teacher within an approved gifted service model. FTE is tabulated and reported to the Georgia Department of Education each October and March. <https://georgiainsights.gadoe.org/Data-Collections/Documents/FTE%20Resources/FY2025/FY2025%20FTE%20Categories%20and%20Weights.pdf>
43. If a student qualifies for gifted education, when do they begin with their gifted services?
 - a. Parents can expect their students to begin receiving gifted services in the next semester/school year depending upon when eligibility has been determined. For example, students that are deemed eligible for gifted services in the Spring can expect to be served in the Fall of the upcoming school year.
44. Can a student be assessed for gifted education in multiple consecutive school years?
 - a. Yes. A student can be assessed for gifted identification over consecutive school years. If a student earns a qualifying score for one of the four domains (Achievement, Mental Ability, Creativity, Motivation), the qualifying score is valid for two years from the date of assessment.
45. Once a student is identified as gifted, do they need to be assessed periodically to ensure they still qualify, or are they entitled to gifted services until they graduate?
 - a. Once a student becomes eligible for gifted services within a Georgia public school district, they do not need to be reassessed again to remain eligible for gifted services.
46. For middle school students, how does Gifted carry with them to High School and also how does it overlap with International Baccalaureate?
 - a. The Georgia Department of Education approves for advanced placement courses and International Baccalaureate courses to qualify as permissible gifted education service models, as long as the teacher of the course has their gifted endorsement. In high school, the most abundant gifted service model is advanced placement courses.

47. If my scholar's IEP states she/he gets small group testing, or other testing accommodations do these apply to gifted testing?
- In such cases, the student's IEP will be honored by way of the District identifying Georgia Department of Education-approved gifted assessment methods in which the student's IEP testing accommodations do not impact the scoring or norming of the assessment. These will be case-by-case decisions, depending on the child's eligibility for special education services and testing accommodations contained within the child's IEP.
48. Are standardized assessments the only way for a student to qualify for gifted?
- The Georgia Department of Education rules require that for a student to become eligible for gifted services, eligibility in at least one of the domains of Achievement and/or Mental Abilities must be established by results of an approved standardized assessment instrument. More on gifted eligibility can be found at this link (eligibility tab): <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/gifted/>
49. Can a student with an IEP qualify for gifted eligibility?
- Yes. The eligibility requirements for gifted education are the same for all students within the State of Georgia. More on gifted eligibility can be found at this link ("eligibility" tab): <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/gifted/>
50. Gifted services should be provided for a minimum what time requirement each week?
- Gifted services should be provided for a minimum of 5 instructional segments per week (approx. 50 minutes per segment) – in order for the school to earn gifted full time enrollment (FTE) for each gifted identified student.
51. Are there any added instructional benefits for general education teachers to earn their gifted endorsement?
- Absolutely! Effective strategies work for all students. The program is designed for DeKalb teachers and features resources provided by the district. Teachers learn strategies and are asked to apply them in the classroom. Teachers also benefit from collaboration with colleagues at their school and across the district.
52. How does Special Education, Section 504, and Gifted Education work together?
- A student with an IEP (special education) or Section 504 Plan can become eligible for gifted education services. Once they do, they remain entitled to any accommodations and modifications within their IEP or Section 504 Plan in gifted instructional settings, and other special education services contained within their IEP.
53. Does the gifted education focus on any areas like STEM, arts, etc?
- It can. The focus of the gifted services instruction is teacher-level and school-level decisions. The gifted identification status allows your child to be served by a gifted-certified teacher. Students receive differentiated curriculum that the GaDOE defines as

“courses of study in which the content, teaching strategies, and expectations of student mastery have been adjusted to be appropriate for gifted students.” Being identified for gifted services has no bearing on a child’s school placement within DeKalb County School District (DCSD). Each DCSD school should provide for gifted education services for eligible students.

54. Is data on the number of gifted students per grade level publicly available?

- a. DeKalb County School District's Division of Research and Accountability manages our public facing data dashboards at this site: <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/data-dashboards/>. We plan to publicize our District's gifted participation data in the near future on that site.

55. Who can I contact if I have questions about the gifted assessments?

- a. Your child’s school has a designated gifted liaison. Your school’s principal/designee should be able to identify and connect you with the school’s gifted liaison. The District Senior Coordinator for Gifted Education who supports gifted assessments is Mrs. Donyell Atkinson (Emmika_Atkinson@DeKalbSchoolsGA.org)

56. Do schools have caps for number of students identified for gifted education each year?

- a. No. There is no cap for the number of students who can become eligible for gifted services each year.

57. What are some specific gifted education topics that teachers can participate in for professional development? And how are topics such as academic rigor, higher order thinking, and critical thinking encouraged for ALL students through gifted education professional development?

- a. Topics include questioning, feedback, small group instruction, technology, creativity, and project-based learning. All teachers are invited to participate in professional learning from the gifted department.

58. Are scholarships available for gifted students after they graduate?

- a. There are a multitude of higher/continuing education scholarships available to students of all profiles and backgrounds. Contact your high school student’s school counselor for specific information and support on accessing scholarships that fit your child’s profile and background. Additional information on college financial aid within Georgia can be found at this site: <https://www.gafutures.org/>

59. How can teachers and parents learn more about protecting gifted students’ mental health?

- a. The Division of Wrap Around Services provides a variety of resources for teachers, students, and families on supporting students’ mental health. This includes social-emotional learning modules provided for students. If a teacher or parent desires more information on mental health matters pertaining to a student, the school counselor or school social worker are the appropriate professionals to contact at the school level for further assistance.

60. When will the next gifted endorsement for teacher be offered?

- a. Applications for the gifted endorsement program are accepted each August – in the first several weeks of the school year.

61. What are the class sizes for the gifted segments?

- a. Class size guidelines for gifted service model segments can be found in the Georgia Department of Education Gifted Resources Manual, at this link (“services models” section): <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/documents/gifted/manuals/gadoe-manual.pdf>

62. Are there opportunities for students (gifted or not) to participate in internships and other work-place learning experiences through DeKalb County School District?

- a. Yes. DeKalb County School District provides a wide variety of Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) pathways for high school students. More on CTAE can be found at these sites: <https://ctaedekalb.org/home>; <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/curriculum/high-school/>. DCSD also provides high school students with a multitude of work-based learning program opportunities. Our CTAE Department and Work-Based Learning staff maintain regular collaboration and communication with higher education and industry professionals on program offerings, features, and designs. Ask your high school student’s counselor for more information on CTAE pathway and work-based learning offerings.