



Gifted and Talented Education (G.A.T.E.)



Mission

The mission of gifted education is to maximize the potential of gifted and talented students by providing programs and services that match the unique characteristics and needs of these students.

Program Model

Students in grades three through eight, who have been identified as academically gifted, receive services using the state-approved special class or pull-out class model. These students are served in language arts and/or math. Both program models reflect acceleration and enrichment opportunities through differentiated instruction that is over and beyond the core curriculum. Gifted and talented instruction includes higher-order thinking skills to expand the state standards.

Gifted Students

South Carolina's Department of Education defines gifted and talented students as those who are identified in grades one through twelve as demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic areas. These students require an educational program beyond what is normally provided by the general school program in order to achieve their potential (SC Regulation 43-220).

Identification Process

Gifted and talented students may be found within any racial, ethnic, or socio-economic group, within both genders, and within populations with disabilities. Identification is a multi-step process, which consists of referral, screening and assessment of eligibility by a district evaluation and placement team.

The State of South Carolina has established three dimensions of giftedness as criteria for placement in the academically gifted program. In order to qualify for placement in gifted and talented programs, students must meet the eligibility criteria in two of the three dimensions.

Referral Process

Parents, with students who have demonstrated ability or potential for academic excellence, may refer their child(ren) for screening by emailing the principal.

Administrators and teachers may also refer students.

Screening

Screening will begin in the fall and continue throughout the school year. Students who participate in screening and are eligible for gifted and talented services will be placed the following school year.

Letters will be mailed to students who qualify in late June/early July.

All second grade students will participate in census testing for the purpose of identification for the academically gifted program. This testing will take place in the fall. No referrals are necessary for second grade students unless they move into the district after the fall testing.

CRITERIA USED IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

DIMENSIONS	DESCRIPTIONS
<p>Dimension A Aptitude</p> <p>Dimension A scores are effective for five years.</p>	<p>Nationally normed individual or group aptitude test approved by the SCDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a score at the 93rd national age percentile or higher on verbal/linguistic, quantitative/mathematical, nonverbal, and/or a composite of the three. <p>Students may be eligible for placement on the basis of their <i>aptitude scores alone</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a composite score at the 96th percentile is an automatic qualifier.
<p>Dimension B High Achievement</p> <p>Dimension B scores are effective for two years.</p>	<p>Nationally normed and achievement test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a score at the 94th national percentile or higher on approved subtests <p>If the approved subtests are unavailable, use the total reading and/or total mathematics score.</p> <p>South Carolina End of Year Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a score at the 90th percentile and ties as determined annually by the South Carolina Department of Education
<p>Dimension C Intellectual/Academic Performance</p>	<p>Requires a student in grades two through five that has met either Dimension A or Dimension B to meet the eligibility score on the Performance Task Assessment (PTA). Qualifying scores for the PTA are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second grade- 16 or higher on verbal or non-verbal • Third grade- 18 or higher on verbal or non-verbal • Fourth grade- 16 or higher on verbal and 22 or higher on nonverbal • Fifth grade- 18 or higher on verbal and 25 or higher on Nonverbal <p>Students entering grades sixth through twelve that have met either Dimension A or Dimension B must show evidence of commitment in academic disciplines through a Grade Point Average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.</p>

Students who meet the eligibility criteria in **two** of the three dimensions are eligible for gifted and talented services. Aptitude test results alone can qualify a student for placement (see Dimension A above). No single criterion can eliminate a student from consideration per Regulation 43-220.