

Fulton County Schools
Advanced Studies / TAG Department

Important Parent Information About Gifted Testing in Grades K-5

Your child has been referred to the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Advocacy Council at your child's school for further evaluation. Enclosed you will find a form to read and consider. Please complete and sign the form and return the TAG teacher indicated within five school days of this information being sent home. We cannot evaluate your child until we receive your signed consent.

The information below explains the types of tests that may be given to students as a part of the TAG testing process. Please save this information, as it will help you understand scores when they are mailed home.

Testing will take place during the school day in the weeks following our receipt of your signed consent. Some students may need up to six days of testing, some may need only one day of testing, while others may not be pulled from classes at all. The appropriate tests to give each child are determined on a case-by-case basis in order to give each individual child as many opportunities as possible to demonstrate their strengths. In order to protect test security, students will be asked not to share with others the questions on the test.

As soon as all tests have been scored and eligibility determined by the school, you will be notified of the results. This process normally takes 4-6 school weeks after testing is over. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

TAG Testing Elementary Parent Q&A

What is the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program?

The Talented and Gifted (TAG) program in the Fulton County School System provides enriching experiences for the intellectually advanced and exceptionally creative student. Gifted services are available in all Fulton County schools for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

How are students determined to be eligible for the TAG program?

For any child who is referred for gifted testing, Fulton County Schools is required to gather information in the following areas: Mental Ability, Creativity, Achievement, and Motivation. The instruments selected for each area meet the guidelines of Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.38.

What testing instruments may be used to determine if my child is eligible for TAG?

The local school's TAG Advocacy Council uses a child's grade level, former testing experiences, and current classroom performance to determine exactly which testing instruments will be used. Each specific test is only administered once every two years.

What is the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)?

The CogAT is a group-administered mental ability test, typically referred to as an IQ test. The test has three batteries: Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. The Verbal Battery appraises the child's verbal inductive and deductive reasoning skills as well as flexibility, fluency, and adaptability in working with verbal materials and solving verbal problems. The Quantitative Battery appraises high-level problem solving with quantitative symbols and concepts. The Nonverbal Battery appraises general inductive reasoning skills in using and adapting cognitive strategies. This battery contains the most novel problems and uses only geometric shapes and figures. The battery requires no reading and no outside fund of knowledge.

The CogAT is typically administered to the K-5 student over three days. Each testing session takes approximately one hour. The resulting score for each battery is reported to parents as a national percentile ranking in the Mental Ability section on the Eligibility Report. The national percentile ranking allows you to compare your child's results to others of the same age across the nation. The typical child will score around the 50th percentile while a 96th percentile is a qualifying score in the mental ability category for gifted services. The CogAT is only administered once every two years.

What is the Naglieri General Ability Test (NGAT)?

The NGAT is a group- or individually-administered cognitive ability test designed to identify students for gifted educational services. It evaluates general reasoning and problem-solving skills across three domains: **Verbal, Nonverbal, and Quantitative**. The test is structured to minimize cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic bias, making it an equitable tool for assessing diverse student populations.

The NGAT consists of multiple-choice questions that assess a student's ability to reason, analyze, and make connections. It does not rely on prior academic knowledge or language proficiency. Instead, it focuses on how students think and solve problems using logic, memory, sequencing, and pattern recognition.

The test is designed to be accessible and fair, using visual instructions and a format that allows students to respond without verbal explanations. The 96th percentile is the qualifying score for gifted services. The NGAT is only administered once every two years.

What is the Figural Torrance Test of Creative Thinking (TTCT)?

The TTCT requires responses that are mainly drawing or pictorial in nature. However, it does not measure artistic talent nor is artistic talent required to do well on the instrument. The TTCT requires students to use their imagination, solve problems, think of new ideas, and elaborate on their ideas.

The TTCT is administered in a one-hour long session. The resulting score is reported as a national percentile ranking to parents in the Creativity section on the Eligibility Report. The 90th percentile is the qualifying score for gifted services. The TTCT is only administered once every two years.

What is the Elementary Product?

The Elementary Product is an un-timed, open-ended scripted lesson given by the regular education classroom teacher as part of the daily classroom activities. Elementary Product lessons are provided by the Advanced Studies office and are not identified to students as a TAG test. The Elementary Product is scored by three trained evaluators using a rubric.

The resulting score is reported as a percentage to parents in either the Creativity or the Motivation section on the Eligibility Report. The qualifying score for gifted services is the 90th percentile. The Elementary Product can be given once each school year.

What are the IOWA Assessments, iReady, and the Stanford Achievement Test (STAT-10)?

These three assessments are nationally-normed tests of achievement. For purposes of gifted eligibility, the total reading and total mathematics batteries are used. These assessments measure concepts and skills typically taught at the grade level of the child. Determination of which of the three tests will be administered to each child is based on a number of factors.

The resulting scores are reported as a national percentile ranking to parents in the Achievement section on the Eligibility Report. The 90th percentile is the qualifying score for gifted services. Each specific type of achievement test can only be administered once every two years for the purposes of determining eligibility for the gifted program.

What is the Gifted Rating Scales-Motivation-Creativity (GRS2-M-C)?

The GRS2-C is a teacher-completed rating scale that evaluates a student's creative potential and motivational behaviors in an academic setting. It is part of the Gifted Rating Scales Second Edition (GRS2), a multidimensional tool designed to identify giftedness across several domains. The Creativity scale specifically measures a student's originality, imagination, and ability to generate novel ideas or solutions.

The scale is completed independently by two teachers who have known the student for at least one month. The teachers are selected by the local school's TAG Advocacy Council. The GRS2-C does not assess academic achievement or intelligence directly, but rather the student's capacity for creative thinking and expression. Motivation refers to a child's desire to achieve a goal or complete self-selected tasks. Motivation is not a type of giftedness but rather viewed as the energy that drives a child to achieve.

The resulting score is reported as a national percentile ranking in the Creativity or Motivation section of the Eligibility Report. A score at or above the 90th percentile qualifies a student for gifted services in Georgia.

Important Note: According to Georgia Department of Education Rule 160-4-2-.38, only one teacher rating scale score may be used for gifted eligibility. This means that if a student qualifies using the GRS2-C (Creativity), a qualifying score from the GRS-M (Motivation) cannot also be used to meet eligibility criteria.

The GRS2 may be re-administered after one calendar year by a different teacher if the student is referred again for testing and did not previously qualify.

Why might my child take some instruments and not all of them?

The TAG Advocacy Council will use only one instrument for each category in each testing cycle: Mental Ability, Creativity, Achievement, and Motivation. Based upon previous testing experiences and/or classroom performance, some children may already have information in their permanent record that can be used in one or more categories. Children will not be tested unnecessarily. The TAG Advocacy Council has more than one option of instruments for some categories. The team will use all pertinent data about the student to select the best instrument at this time. The team will not exhaust all of its options in each category during this referral process. If a child is found ineligible now, he or she needs additional time to mature before being referred again for TAG testing.

How can I help my child prepare for these instruments?

Preparation for any of these instruments cannot be done within a short period of time. Knowledge or skills needed are developed as a result of all school and life experiences. It is best for you to ensure that your child is well rested and has a nutritious breakfast for each day of school.

As these are standardized measures, we are limited in the information we are able to share on each assessment. We encourage you to do your own research for more detailed information. Please contact the TAG teacher at your local school with additional questions.