



Advanced & Gifted Resource Manual

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Our Mission

Georgia Cyber Academy is a K through 12 charter school committed to providing students with a flexible, high-quality, and interactive virtual learning environment.

Our Vision

Through the collaboration of all stakeholders in our learning community, Georgia Cyber Academy aims to create a nationally recognized, high-quality learning environment that develops and empowers our students to become career or college-ready leaders in society.

Values and Beliefs

We believe in one GCA Community where all members feel seen, included, and supported.

We are committed to high expectations for our learning community and developing our students to meet them.

School Overview

Georgia Cyber Academy operates a schoolwide Title I Educational Program serving, on average, approximately 11,000 students per year. Our program is available to any student who resides in Georgia and typically has a student population that encompasses every county in the state. Our goals for this school year are for students to build a firm academic foundation from which they can move forward to the next grade level successfully or graduate and to create a strong school community. Our rigorous curriculum, coupled with supportive school programs, is designed with these goals in mind. Our entire faculty and staff are eager to support our students on their journey to academic excellence and assist students in reaching their goals.

Accreditation

Georgia Cyber Academy is accredited by Cognia (formerly AdvancED). Accreditation means that our programs and curriculum meet rigorous standards recognized by colleges, universities, and employers.

Advanced & Gifted Program Description

The Advanced and Gifted Program (A&G) is a supplemental enrichment program designed to meet the needs of our advanced learners in a variety of ways including: enriched sessions, curriculum compacting, topic enrichment and extension, honors, advanced, and/or accelerated course planning and placement; along with other activities which incorporate academics, multiple intelligences, and social interaction.

General Advanced and Gifted qualifications are set forth by GaDOE Gifted guidelines and implemented in accordance with specific Georgia Cyber Academy program criteria.

Participants in the A&G program are expected to maintain exemplary progress and achievement. If you feel your student qualifies for the program, please contact the Advanced & Gifted Coordinator, Stacy Clendenen, at sclendenen@georgiacyber.org for additional information.

Gifted services in K-8

Gifted students at GCA are served under the Advanced Content model. In this model, students are placed with other gifted/advanced students and taught by gifted-certified teachers. *They are served as gifted in all four content area classes every day, as opposed to a more typical weekly pull-out model.* Students in these classes will be focused on more advanced content than their general education counterparts would be. Gifted teachers will use their time to more fully explore the standards, going wider and deeper into the content. Our goal is that every gifted student at GCA will be engaged and challenged! We work to continually meet the needs of individual students. Please reach out to our team, as we are happy to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Gifted services in Secondary

Our gifted students in the Secondary grade band are served through our Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Students are expected to have a minimum of one of these courses on their schedule each school year. This ensures that our gifted students are taking advantage of the opportunities for advancing their education, and it provides choices among the academic areas for them to challenge their own potential. These courses are taught at a faster pace than the equivalent grade level course, and generally require more study time as well. Courses are taught by gifted-certified teachers that are well-trained in preparing our brightest students for success in college and beyond. Please reach out to your counselor regarding all course change and placement requests.

Advanced Services (Grades 3-8 only)

The Georgia Cyber Academy Advanced Program is designed to provide appropriately challenging instruction for students in grades 3-8 who consistently demonstrate advanced academic performance but who do not currently qualify for gifted services. Student selection is based on multiple objective data sources to identify learners who are performing significantly above

grade-level expectations. Advanced Program eligibility is determined annually based on district criteria. Placement is reviewed each school year and may not transfer to another school district.

Georgia Cyber Academy plans to offer the following AP and Honors courses for the 2026-2027 school year:

ELA Courses:

- Honors Literature and Composition I
- Honors Literature and Composition II
- AP Language and Composition
- AP Literature and Composition

Math Courses:

- Honors Advanced Algebra
- Honors Algebra C&C
- Honors Geometry
- AP PreCalculus
- AP Statistics
- AP Computer Science A

Science Courses:

- Honors Biology
- Honors Chemistry
- Honors Physics
- AP Physics I
- AP Biology
- AP Environmental Science

Social Studies Courses:

- Honors US History
- Honors World History
- Honors American Government
- Honors Economics
- AP US Government and Politics
- AP Human Geography
- AP US History
- AP World History: Modern
- AP Psychology

Other AP Courses:

- AP Business with Personal Finance

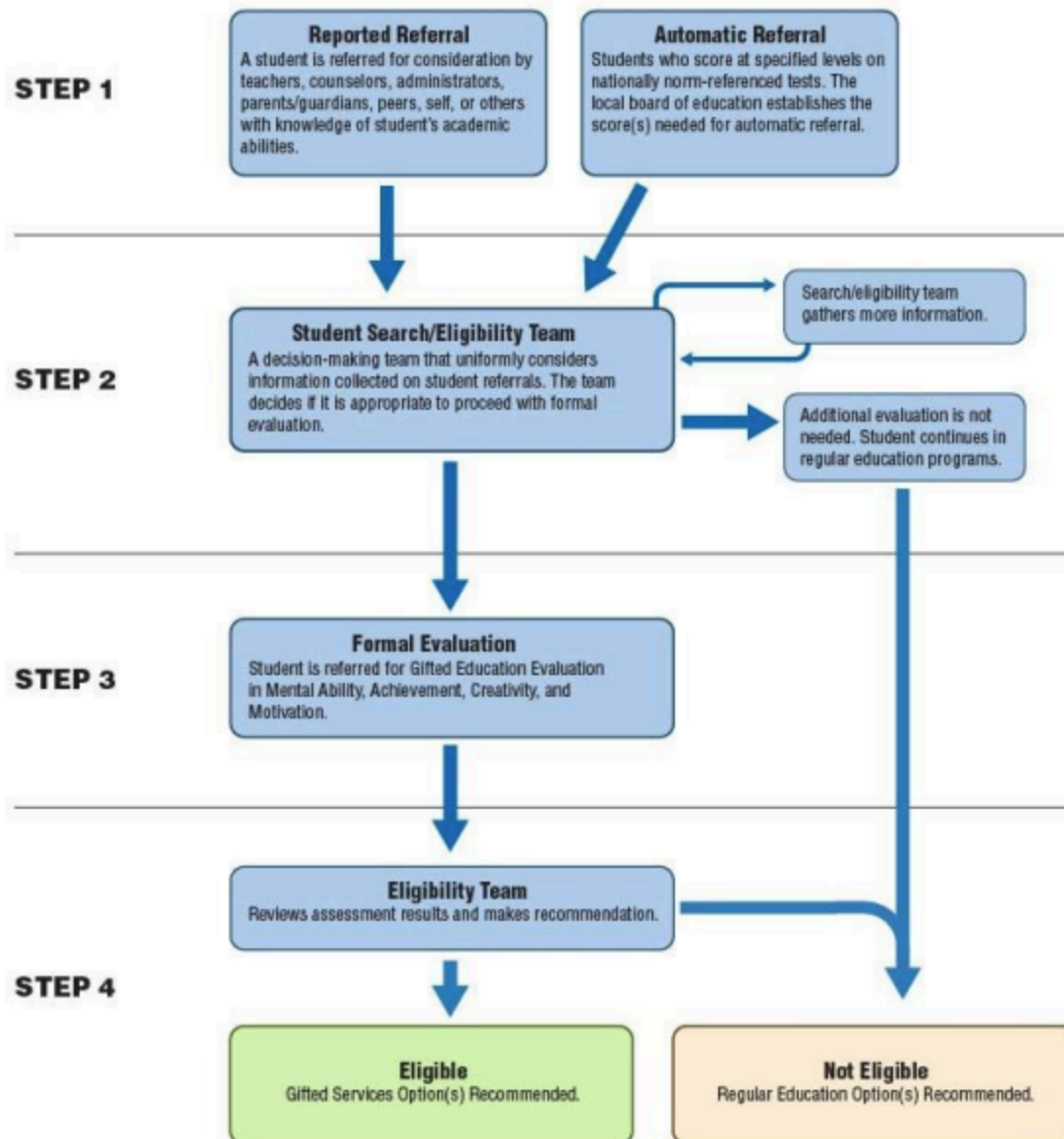
In addition, Georgia Cyber Academy will allow qualifying students to take the following AP classes through Georgia Virtual School for the 2026-2027 school year:

- AP Art History
- AP Chemistry
- AP Physics 2: Algebra Based
- AP Physics C: Mechanics
- AP US Government and Politics- Comparative
- AP European History
- AP Microeconomics
- AP Macroeconomics
- AP Computer Science Principles

The GCA Advanced and Gifted Program Resource Guide outlines the specific procedures needed to fully implement the identification and assessment of Georgia Cyber Academy's students. It also clearly defines the implementation of the State of Georgia's rule for defining and serving gifted students. The resource is useful for Advanced and Gifted Program Teachers, Gifted Eligibility Team Chairpersons, school leaders, and parents. GCA is a charter school and is subject to the rules and regulations of all Georgia public schools.

Referral and Eligibility

Referral and Eligibility Process Chart



Referrals

Gifted testing is conducted during the spring semester of each academic year. Students will be automatically referred for review if they meet the criteria on NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing. Students may also be referred by peers, faculty, staff or parents. The referral window for the 2026/27 school year will be open from January 19, 2027, through February 1, 2027. Referrals can be made by visiting our Advanced & Gifted page on the GCA website and completing the survey pop-up available during the designated dates. Students with a second semester start date will not be reviewed until the following school year.

Parents will be notified via email if their student was selected for gifted testing. If parent/guardian consent is not given, the student cannot be evaluated. The A&G team will hold an informational meeting about the testing process and to answer any questions parents may have. This meeting will take place prior to the due date for submitting parental consent. Parents will be notified via email with the meeting link. Once all testing is completed, parents will be notified via email of all scores in May 2027.

Data Collection

To ensure appropriate identification, placement, and continued support for gifted learners, the A&G department collects and analyzes multiple sources of student data. This information is used to make informed decisions regarding eligibility, services, progress monitoring, and program improvement.

Gifted Eligibility Criteria Table

• In option A and B, information must be gathered in each of the four categories. • At least one of the criteria must be met by a score on a GaDOE-approved, nationally norm-referenced test. • Any data used to establish eligibility in one category cannot be used to establish eligibility in another category. • If a rating scale is used to evaluate creativity, a rating scale cannot be used to evaluate motivation. If a rating scale is used to evaluate motivation, a rating scale cannot be used to evaluate creativity. • Any piece of information used to establish eligibility must be current within two calendar years. • Local school systems must establish policies regarding the use of data gathered and analyzed by private entities.		
Category	Option A	Option B
	Student must have a qualifying score in the mental ability AND achievement categories.	Student must qualify in <u>three of the four</u> categories.
Mental Ability	• Grades K-2: 99th percentile composite score on a nationally age normed mental ability test • Grades 3-12: ≥96th percentile composite score on a nationally age-normed mental ability test	• Grades K-12: ≥ 96th percentile composite OR appropriate component score on a nationally age-normed mental ability test
Achievement	• Grades K-12: ≥ 90th percentile Total Reading, Total Math, or Complete Battery on a nationally normed achievement test	• Grades K-12: ≥ 90th percentile Total Reading, Total Math, or Complete Battery on a nationally normed achievement test • Grades K-12: Superior product/performance with a score ≥ 90 on a scale of 1-100, as evaluated by a panel of three or more qualified evaluators
Creativity	• Evaluation data required	• Grades K-12: ≥ 90th percentile on composite score on a nationally normed creativity test • Grades K-12: Rating scales used to qualify student creativity must equate to the 90th percentile • Grades K-12: Superior product/performance with a score ≥ 90 on a scale of 1-100, as

		evaluated by a panel of three or more qualified evaluators
Motivation	Evaluation data required	- Grades 6-12: Two-year average of a 3.5 GPA/NGA on a 4.0 scale in regular core subject of mathematics, ELA, social studies, science, and full year world languages (This should be the top 10% of the core courses listed. See pg. 38-39 for additional information.) - Grades K-12: Rating scales used to qualify student motivation must equate to the 90th percentile - Grades K-12: Superior product/performance/structured observation with a score ≥ 90 on a scale of 1-100, as evaluated by a panel of three or more qualified evaluators

*****Private test data from an outside source may not be used to determine eligibility; it may be used as a referral for further evaluation.*****

Gifted Protocols

Reciprocity within Georgia

Any student who meets the Georgia gifted eligibility criteria is considered eligible to receive gifted education services at GCA upon verification of records.

Out of State

While there is no reciprocity for students identified for gifted outside of the state of Georgia unless the student is a dependent of military personnel, students who were identified as gifted in another state shall automatically be considered for testing during the next testing cycle at GCA.

NOTE: Students may not be scheduled into gifted classes until eligibility has been verified and parent permission has been obtained.

Probation

Gifted identified students at GCA being served in the gifted classroom shall be evaluated, at a minimum, twice yearly. Students who do not maintain the guidelines outlined in the continuation policy will be placed on probation for the course(s) the student is not in compliance with.

- An average below 75% in any Gifted course.
- Unsatisfactory performance
 - Late submission of work
 - Poor quality of work
 - Lack of classroom participation

Once a student is placed on probation, the student's probationary status remains in effect for a minimum of one semester (18 weeks). Transfer students who qualify for gifted services at GCA, but whose performance does not meet continuation criteria, may begin services on probation. Contact the Advanced & Gifted Coordinator for guidance as needed.

The procedures are as follows:

1. Notify the parent and student in writing of probation using the *Notification of Probation Status* form.
2. Meet with teachers, parent(s), and student to review student performance, probation plan, and expectations.
3. Monitor student progress and adjust interventions outlined in the probation plan if needed, during the grading period.
4. Maintain and document adequate communication with parents throughout the intervention/probationary process.

At the end of each probationary period, determine if:

1. Interventions were successful, and student is showing satisfactory improvement. Probation is discontinued.
- OR
2. Interventions have been unsuccessful. If so, gifted services are discontinued. The parent will be notified in writing prior to dismissal, and a meeting will be held per parental/guardian request.

Acceleration

All acceleration requests must be sent to the district coordinator for review. Acceleration requests must be submitted within the first two weeks of school OR within the last four weeks of the school for the following school year. Please note: By law, a child must be 5 years old or older to begin kindergarten in Georgia public school, and must be 6 years or older to begin first grade.

Voluntary Discontinuation

A parent may request a student be removed from the gifted service program at any time by providing written notification. Gifted services must be discontinued for a minimum of 18 weeks before any reconsideration of service can occur, barring extenuating circumstances.

Program Re-Entry

Once identified eligible for gifted services in the state of Georgia, students are not required to re-establish gifted eligibility, regardless of the length of break in service. All re-entry decisions are made on an individual basis by the Eligibility Team. Factors to be considered in the

re-entry decision should include evidence of the student's advanced learning needs and recent performance levels.

Breaks in service occur when:

- A student has been removed from gifted service due to academic performance.
- A student has been removed from gifted service due to parent request.
- A student has a change in enrollment status (i.e., residence, private school, etc.).

Students served in a gifted classroom whose break in service was due to academic performance or parent request may be reconsidered after 18 weeks. Students whose break in service was due to an enrollment change may be considered for re-entry immediately. Continuation criteria must be met in all circumstances.

To re-enter a student:

1. Obtain Re-entry Form with parent signature and attach all required documentation.
2. If the Eligibility Team approves re-entry, the gifted coordinator will contact the parent.

This handbook is available for public review on the district website to ensure transparency and accessibility for all stakeholders. Parents, students, staff, and community members are encouraged to review the information provided.

