

Orangeburg County School District
Program for Academically Talented Students (PATs)/Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)
Notice to Parents 2026-2027

The Program for Academically Talented Students (PATs/GATE Program) will be accepting referrals/applications for the 2027-2028 school year beginning September 8, 2026 and ending September 18, 2026. The following guidelines will be used:

Definition of academic giftedness as defined by law (R43-220) and the South Carolina State Department of Education: *Academic and Intellectual Ability: Students who have the academic and/or intellectual potential to function at a high level in one or more areas.*

Referral Process

Referral procedures ensure access to the gifted and talented program for students who have demonstrated ability or potential for high performance in academic areas. Administrators, parents, teachers, and students may complete referrals. Only one referral per child is needed. Referral/application forms may be picked up at the schools. All referrals and applications must be returned to the GATE office **on or before Friday, September 18, 2026.**

Screening Process

Assessment for placement into Gifted and Talented program will be conducted in late October. Additional testing will take place in the spring.

- ♦ An aptitude measure will be given to all students at the district entry grade level (grade 2 for grade 3 placement). For all other grades, an aptitude measure will be given to those students who have referrals/applications.
- ♦ A nationally normed achievement measure will be given to all students at the district entry level (grade 2 for grade 3 placement). For all other grades, an achievement measure will be given to those students who have referrals/applications.
- ♦ Academic performance data will be reviewed (rising grades 7-8) or obtained (rising grades 3-6) for students who meet criteria for Dimension A **or** Dimension B, but not for both.

Placement

State

The evaluation step of the identification process is the responsibility of an Evaluation/Placement team within the district. For state identification, students who meet eligibility criteria in at least **two out of three dimensions are eligible for gifted and talented services.**

- ♦ Dimension A – Reasoning Abilities – 93rd national age percentile on verbal/linguistic, quantitative/mathematical, nonverbal, and/or a composite score. Note: Students may be eligible for placement on the basis of their aptitude scores alone. For placement in grades 3-10, students with a composite score equal to or greater than 96th national age percentile will be served based on this score alone.
- ♦ Dimension B – Equal to or greater than 94th national percentile on approved subtests (reading comprehension and/or mathematical concepts and problem solving)
- ♦ Dimension C – Academic Performance on the STAR Performance Tasks for placement in grades 3-6. Trained district personnel will administer performance tasks. For placement in grades 7-8 – grades in academic disciplines (Language, Math, Science, and Social Studies) – No less than a 3.75 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Assurance of Equity

Orangeburg County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in admission to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies should be made to the Office of Human Resources – (803) 533-6551 or the Office of Exceptional Services – (803) 533-6550.

Questions and Concerns

You may obtain additional information concerning the PATs/GATE by contacting:

Priscilla Hollington
6030 Slab Landing Road
Cope, SC 29038
Phone – 534-8081