

THE FAYETTE COUNTY PROGRAM FOR GIFTED LEARNERS

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Philosophy

Because all students should have the opportunity to develop their intellectual and artistic strengths and talents, programs for the gifted and talented are an essential part of the curriculum of Fayette County Schools. The Gifted Program extends the adopted curriculum and delivers instruction with increased pace and rigor in order to encourage gifted learners to promote the critical, creative, and practical application of knowledge.



All public schools in Georgia are mandated to operate a program for academically talented children in Grades K-12. In Fayette County, this program is called Gifted.

Under Current State Regulations...

Under current state regulations, all test scores must be generated by the assessing school system. No scores from private testing can be used, although such test results will be used to refer a student for assessment. All students transferring from a gifted program in another public school system in Georgia are qualified in Fayette County under the state-mandated reciprocity agreement. These students must present evidence, however, that they have qualified for gifted services under Georgia law and that they meet the requirements of Fayette County's Continuation Policy.

Because Georgia has no reciprocal agreement with other states, all students transferring from out of state must meet Georgia's state requirements before being registered for gifted classes.

Fayette County will accept test results from out of state or private schools if the following requirements are met.

- The sending school is accredited.
- The test results were the result of school, not private testing.
- The tests meet the requirements of Georgia regulations.
- Scores are no older than two years.

Students who fail to qualify are reassessed no sooner than two years from the original testing date.

To Qualify, Student Must Meet the State Requirements of Rule .08 or .38

Rule .08 — Meet both requirements

Grades K-2

- **Mental Ability**
99th percentile Composite
- **Achievement**
90th percentile or better in Total Math, Total Reading, or Composite (Core)

Grades 3-12

- **Mental Ability**
96th percentile or better Composite
- **Achievement**
90th percentile or better in Total Math, Total Reading, or Composite (Core)

Rule .38 — Meet three of four requirements

Grades K-12

- **Mental Ability**
96th percentile or better
- **Achievement**
90th percentile or better in Total Math, Total Reading, or Composite (Core)
- **Motivation**
In-system referrals
90th percentile or better on teacher observation form
Out-of-System Transfers
3.5 GPA in core academic courses over previous two years
- **Creativity**
90th percentile or better on Torrance Test of Creative Thinking

How are Children Referred to the Gifted Program?

Children are referred automatically as a result of system-wide or school-wide testing.

Children may also be referred by teachers, counselors, parents, or administrators. Referral is initiated by completing the Observation Form which requests anecdotal evidence of recognized gifted behavior and evidence of gifted work. No child will be tested on a personal recommendation until the Observation Form is completed. To refer a child for screening, please contact the teacher of the gifted, the classroom teacher, or the school counselor in your child's school.

Three testing windows are established for each academic year. Assessment is scheduled within those windows. Testing dates are available at www.FCBOE.org under "School Information."

When a child is referred for assessment, parents are notified in writing.

Under State guidelines, test scores are valid for two years. Retesting, should that be necessary, occurs at the close of two-years.

What Does Fayette County's Gifted Program Model Look Like?

In grades K-5, gifted students are served in a resource model. Students are scheduled into classes for the gifted once a week for an entire day or twice a week for a full morning and full afternoon. When not receiving gifted services, they work with their regular class.

In grades 6-12, gifted students study in specific academic areas of interest and expertise.

All gifted classes are taught by teachers who are specialists in their field and have earned an additional certification endorsement.

At the K-5 level, the Gifted Program is an interdisciplinary exploration built on significant thematic issues and the investigation of complex questions. Activities require critical thinking, and the development of advanced research and communication skills.

The secondary program for grades 6-12 offers content area classes which are both qualitatively and quantitatively different from those in the regular curriculum. These classes require extension of exploration and applied critical thinking skills. In some cases summer reading is also a required part of the program.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if the Gifted Program Proves to be Unsuitable for my Child?

Withdrawal from the program is a simple matter and can be initiated by parents. Contact your student's teacher or school counselor to withdraw your student from the program.

Students may re-enter the program at the beginning of any semester without re-evaluation if they meet performance requirements of the Continuation Policy at the time of the re-entry request. Re-entry occurs only at the beginning of a semester.

What is the Duration of my Child's Placement in the Program?

As long as performance requirements are met, you and your child will determine whether to continue participation.

What are the Criteria for Remaining a Student in Good Standing Within the Gifted Program?

A student's performance in regular and gifted classes is reviewed at the end of each semester, earlier if difficulties in either regular or gifted classes become evident. To

remain active in the Gifted Program, a student must exhibit satisfactory performance in both regular and Gifted classes.

Such performance is judged by a student's willingness to participate, the student's attitude toward the class and its tasks and fellow students, and the degree to which the student completes assignments with an obvious quality of effort.

Satisfactory performance in the regular education program is defined as the maintenance of an overall "B" (≥ 80) average.

Satisfactory performance in gifted classes also requires an average of "B" or better in each gifted class.

Students failing to meet continuation criteria are placed on probation. While on probation, students are permitted to remain in the Gifted Program. They are given one full semester to meet the continuation criteria or be withdrawn from the program. (Summer school attendance will not serve to clear probationary status.) Parents are notified in writing of the results of the continuation review and prior to withdrawal, should that be necessary.