

The Referral Process

Students can be referred for testing by any school personnel, system-wide testing or by their parents. The steps of the referral process are:

1. Classroom teacher gives FOCUS teacher the child's name so the FOCUS teacher can review test scores in the child's permanent record to warrant an automatic referral for testing.
2. If the scores found do not indicate the child should be an automatic referral, the FOCUS teacher should discuss the child with the referral team so that they may determine if testing for the gifted program is appropriate. The teacher should bring to the meeting: a completed gifted referral form, a portfolio collection of assignments and student's work, and the standard education record.
3. If it is determined that testing is appropriate, the gifted program teacher will send home a "permission to test form" and begin the testing process.
4. If it is determined that testing for the gifted program is not appropriate, the referring party will be notified.

Criteria for Placement in the Gifted Program

Guidelines for placement criteria are determined by the State Department of Education. To meet criteria for placement, a student must have qualifying scores in 3 out of 4 areas: mental ability (IQ), achievement, creativity, and motivation. For mental ability, a qualifying score is 96%ile or higher. In achievement, a qualifying score is a 90%ile on total battery, total math, or total reading. For both creativity, and motivation a qualifying score is 90%ile.

Automatic Referrals

All students take the CoGat in 1st, 3rd and 5th grade. All 3rd and 5th graders also take the ITBS. Students who score a 94%ile or higher on any area of the CoGat or 90%ile or higher on any area of the ITBS are automatically referred for gifted testing.

Frequently Asked Questions

When are children tested? Most often children are tested December through February. This is when the CoGat and ITBS scores come to the school. Children can be tested anytime during the school year until the middle of April.

How many times can my child test for the program? Students may test once K-2, once 3-4 and again in 5th grade.

Will my child have to requalify each year? No, once a child is placed in the gifted program he remains unless the parents request dismissal. In the event that a child is not performing to standards he will be put on a plan of improvement for 9 weeks. If he does not improve, he may be dismissed from the program but may be retested after one year.

FAQ Continued

What tests are used for evaluation?

Only nationally normed test are used for gifted testing. While the CRCT is a good indicator of student achievement, it can not be used for placement in the gifted program.

Will my child be held responsible for work he misses in the regular classroom while in FOCUS?

FOCUS resource students are to be held responsible for mastery of all grade-level AKS. However, due to the unique nature of the gifted resource program and the additional workload that resource FOCUS students are expected to carry, they will, in most cases, be excused from regular education daily and related homework assignments given while attending FOCUS classes. These guidelines for Make-up Work are to be used when making decisions regarding work missed while attending FOCUS resource classes.

How can I best support my gifted student?

- Check for completion of assignments
- Read communications from school
- Join Gwinnett Alliance for Gifted Education