

## Selection for the Gifted & Talented Accelerated Program (Grades 4-8)

### Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) **How do parents express their interest in The Gifted & Talented Accelerated Program?** Parents fill out the interest application either on line or on paper from August 15 to October the 7<sup>th</sup>. Information will go home to parents through teacher communication, emails and the FCPS.net website. The goal of this communication is to cast a broad net to support interest in this service delivery option.
- 2) **Who will collect the interest application?** The Gifted and Talented District Office will collect the initial interest applications and then disseminate them to the GT Resource teachers.
- 3) **What about parents who do not complete an interest form, but their teachers see potential in these students?** Each school's Gifted Recommendation Committee (both elementary and middle) will meet to discuss all students who may have been missed in the process and add their names to the interested list. Parents can then be contacted to complete the interest form.
- 4) **What are the entrance requirements for The Gifted & Talented Accelerated Program?** Students must be formally identified in the areas of reading, math and general intellectual. Formal identification includes a complete body of evidence which supports the need for gifted services. Evidence pieces include:
  - Ninth Stanine Test Scores (96% to 99%ile) on a standardized norm referenced general ability test, along with multiple pieces of other types of supporting evidence. Test utilized for program inclusion is the Cognitive Abilities Test. Other appropriate individual tests may be utilized in special consideration circumstances.
  - Ninth Stanine Test Scores (96% to 99%ile) on standardized norm referenced achievement tests in both reading and math, along with multiple pieces of other types of supporting evidence in both reading and math. Tests utilized for program inclusion are the IOWA Assessments in reading and math. Other appropriate individual tests may be utilized in special consideration circumstances.
- 5) **Who will make any needed testing determinations for interested students?** Each school's Gifted Recommendation Committees will meet to review each child's assessment record and/or GT Record in order to make testing determinations. Testing decisions are best made by school staff who are familiar with the student's abilities and needs. Students from private and home schools will be reviewed by their incoming districted The Gifted & Talented Accelerated Program school site. The District Gifted Office will work with the student's private and home schools to collect assessments, evidences and to conduct any testing needed.
- 6) **What are the guidelines for possible assessments?** Students who are formally identified will not need testing in the area(s) in which they are identified. When students are not identified in the areas required, MAP scores and nationally normed testing will be reviewed. Guidelines for testing include past test scores of at least 89%ile or higher. Determinations will be made based on individual student needs along with considerations and impact factors of environmental, cultural, and language diversity or exceptionalities.
- 7) **When will testing opportunities take place?** Testing for all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders takes place in the fall. All 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be administered the IOWA Assessments and the Cognitive Abilities Test. Testing opportunities for 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> graders will begin in the fall as well.
- 8) **Who will administer the assessments?** The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom teachers and the gifted teachers will work together to administer the assessments in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The gifted teachers will administer the tests in 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grades.
- 9) **When will parents find out about the testing results?** Parents will be notified of the test results after the testing window concludes for each grade level by the school where the assessments were administered. Private or home schooled students testing results will be distributed by the District Gifted & Talented Department.
- 10) **Can parents appeal if students are not offered placement into The Gifted & Talented Accelerated Program?** The Appeal/Grievance form will only allow parents to appeal for formal identification or for appropriateness of gifted services. Parents must contact the District Gifted Office for the appeal paperwork. The District Gifted Selection Committee will meet to review all appeals and make a decision on each appeal presented to the committee.