



Gifted and Talented Academic Program

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Purpose

This handbook has been designed to help parents learn more about the Gifted and Talented Programs of the Charleston County School District (CCSD), including requirements and enrollment information. If you have any questions, please contact CCSD's Gifted and Talented Program at (843) 402-7836.

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South Carolina Definition of "Gifted and Talented"

As stated in State Board Regulation R 43-220:

"Gifted and talented students are those who are identified in grades one through twelve as demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic and/or artistic areas and therefore require an educational program beyond that normally provided by the general school program in order to achieve their potential."

-24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-220.1(A)(1).

Philosophy

The Charleston County School District (CCSD) is committed to an educational philosophy that recognizes the unique value, needs, and talents of individual students. CCSD's Gifted and Talented (GT) Program is designed to challenge and stimulate the academically GT student through a teaching approach that enriches and accelerates the learning of core content according to the state's curriculum standards.

The mission of the program is to maximize the potential of GT students through an appropriate curriculum responsive to individual learning rates, styles and complexity. All instruction occurs in environments that encourage and nurture conceptual inquiry, flexibility, creative and critical thinking, and innovation.

Program Goals

The ultimate goal of the GT Program is to foster in each student a desire for excellence, compassion for others, and a sense of individual responsibility to self, the school, the community and a changing society. We do this by:

- ◆ Identifying and placing all CCSD academically GT students in grades 3-12 according to the mandated specifications of the Education Improvement Act of South Carolina (Regulation 43-220).
- ◆ Providing each GT child opportunities for intellectual stimulation through group interaction with others of similar academic abilities and a curriculum of experiences and activities outside the limits of the regular classroom.
- ◆ Empowering each gifted child to recognize and fully utilize his or her specific unique talents and to strive for excellence while contributing to self and others.

Curriculum Overview

—IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS—

Primary Students Actively Involved in Learning (Primary SAIL) is for 3rd grade students and meets for a minimum of 125 minutes each week. The instruction allows students to explore, seek solutions to real problems, actively pursue knowledge, and clearly convey ideas. The College of William and Mary's GT curriculum "Journeys and Destinations" and a Mentoring Mathematical Minds (M)3 unit challenge these young inquiring minds!

Elementary SAIL is a two-year program allowing students in 4th and 5th grades to focus on standards of the core academic areas. Students meet for a minimum of 200 minutes weekly to explore a process-oriented curriculum. The College of William and Mary's GT and the Mentoring Mathematical Minds (M)3 curricula offer multi-disciplinary topics across the core content areas. The challenging coursework and targeted teaching strategies strengthen reasoning skills, critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving. Students participate in group projects, individual research, and competitive activities such as First Lego League, Invention Conventions, and the Academic Bowl.

Summer SAIL is a three-week summertime program designed to enhance the SAIL experience of the school year. Students enroll in high interest interdisciplinary strands.



IN MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Middle School GT Honors are content-based Honors or exploratory classes, which link multi-disciplinary learning experiences with major issues, themes, and ideas. Immersion into a challenging, authentic, collaborative and multidisciplinary “engaged” learning environment allows learners to further develop creativity and problem-solving skills. Students take ownership of their learning through active processing and attend Honor/GT for 250 minutes weekly or for one class period a day. Odyssey of the Mind, Future Problem Solving, the Optimist Oratorical Contest and History Day provide options for participation in extended group problem-solving activities.

IN HIGH SCHOOLS

The ***High School GT Honors Block*** grants 9th and 10th grade students opportunities to integrate English and Social Studies courses— specifically World Literature and Global Studies— for a truly interdisciplinary learning experience. The content of the Honors Block focuses on the study of major world cultures. Social Science and English/Language Arts content encourages teamwork, critical thinking, creative problem-solving, research, and inquiry to reveal how knowledge of the past can positively impact the global communities of tomorrow.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered in each of the district’s high schools and allow students to earn college credits. CCSD’s high schools offer a variety of AP courses, including U.S. History, English, Calculus, European History, Spanish, French, and Biology. The South Carolina State Department of Education underwrites the costs of materials and the tests for 11th and 12th grade students. Students in the 10th grade may enroll in AP courses but are responsible for paying for the AP test.

Gifted & Talented (GT) Nomination Request Form

-ONLY FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-12

Academically Gifted and Talented Program (SAIL& GT/Honors)

Charleston County School District (CCSD), 75 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401
Phone: (843)402-7836 Fax: (843) 402-7835

This form is to be completed by any person who wishes to nominate a student for placement in CCSD's SAIL or GT Honors Program for Academically GT students. Information will be reviewed to determine if the student is a candidate for testing in the Fall.

Please do not re-nominate students already eligible for SAIL. Please send the completed nomination form and required attachments to your child's school office by October 1st.

I. NOMINATED STUDENT INFORMATION- *(Please print)*

Current Grade Level: _____ Student ID#: _____

Student's Last Name, First Name (legal) MI

School Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____
Month Day Year

Student's **Complete** Mailing Address including zip code:

Home Phone #: _____

Parent Daytime #: _____

Charleston > excellence is our standard
County SCHOOL DISTRICT

Check if this student:

- Recently enrolled in CCSD
 - Receives CCSD ESL Services
 - Has a 504 Plan *(Please attach a copy)*
 - Has a Special Education IEP *(Please attach a copy)*
-

II. FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY:

Sex: Male Female

Ethnic Background:

- Caucasian Asian
- Black Native American
- Hispanic Other

Qualifies for:

- Free Lunch Reduced Lunch
-

III. NOMINATED BY:

Last Name, First Name

Phone #: _____

Nomination Date: *(required)* _____

Relationship to student: *(check one)*

- Teacher Parent/Guardian Self
- Friend (Student) Administrator/Guidance

For grades 6-12, please attach a copy of the most recent report card. If the student recently transferred to CCSD, please attach photocopies of most recent aptitude scores, achievement test scores, and yearly report card.

Gifted & Talented Placement & Evaluation Steps

The following screening and referral procedures will be used by CCSD schools to determine eligibility for the GT academic programs in the school year.

Whom do you screen?

- ◆ All children enrolled in 2nd grade.
- ◆ All nominated or referred children in 3rd through 12th grades. Nomination referrals can come from administrators, parents, teachers, and students (form on pg 6-7).
- ◆ All children with high census aptitude and/or achievement scores.

What instruments are used for student screenings?

All of the instruments used are nationally normed.

- ◆ **For 2nd graders**, the state provides an aptitude (CogAT—Cognitive Abilities Test) and achievement (ITBS— Iowa Test of Basic Skills) test, and students take the Fall/Spring school testing using the Measures in Achievement Performance (MAP) achievement test.
- ◆ **For 3rd graders**, an aptitude (CoGAT) test and the MAP achievement test (Fall and Spring tests).
- ◆ **For students in 4th grade and above**, the OLSAT aptitude test, the MAP achievement test (Fall or Spring test), and the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) are used.

What is the process for screening and determining eligibility of students in 2nd through 5th grades?

- ◆ **Round One: In the Fall**, all 2nd graders; all students whom have been nominated (by parents, teachers, administrators, and students); and all children for whom new census data are available will be assessed.
- ◆ **Round Two: In the Spring**, children in 2nd through 5th grades who have met either the aptitude (Dimension A) or the achievement (Dimension B) standard— but NOT both— may take the Performance Tasks (Project STAR).

What process do you follow for screening and determining eligibility of students in 6th through 12th grades?

To meet the gifted criteria for qualifying, a student must meet the following (July 2013 Regulations):

1. score a **composite score (total) which of 96%** or higher national age percentile (**Dimension A**)

OR

2. meet the criteria of 2 of the 3 Dimensions:

- **Dimension A (Aptitude):** 93% or higher national age percentile rank score on any subtest
 - **Dimension B (Achievement):** 94th or higher national age percentile score or meet the cut off scores from SC State Test (Reading or Math Only)
 - **Dimension C (Intellectual/Academic):** Minimum of 3.75 Grade GPA on a four point scale of yearlong core subjects (rising 7th grade and above) - not to be confused with the Uniform Grading Policy's class weightings
 - Children who are screened using a GPA (**Dimension C**) must obtain a 3.75 on a 4.0 scale to meet the criterion of Dimension C. This overall GPA will be determined using English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language. The GPA is computed using final grades from the most recently completed school year.
- ♦ The Gifted and Talented Regulations have changed as of 7/01/2013 to accept the usage of year ending 5th grade GPAs. The 3.75 or higher is required for the four core subject areas: ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies.

Who oversees placement into the GT Program?

Each school has an Evaluation and Placement Team, which ensures appropriate student placement in the GT Program by properly interpreting and evaluating student data.

What is the procedure for placement in the GT program?

- ◆ Students meeting the state identification criteria are then reviewed by the school's Evaluation and Placement Team (core team) to ensure that the placement is in the best interest of the child (parents are included in these decisions). All 2nd graders who become eligible and are placed in the GT program will begin the program at the beginning of the following school year.
- ◆ All 3rd grade and up students meeting the GT criterion and Evaluation/Placement team approval will be placed if there is room available in the applicable SAIL or GT Honors (core) class. If there is not room available, the student will be placed on a waiting list. (usually a concern only in middle/high schools because of the core classes)
- ◆ In addition, the Evaluation and Placement Team will adhere to "Removal of Students from the Gifted and Talented Program" guidelines. These guidelines outline the process involving the Evaluation/Placement team to ensure that all decisions are made in the best interest of the student.

Any Additional Questions?

Please contact CCSD's Gifted and Talented Department at (843) 402-7836.

Gifted & Talented

Identification Criteria

In order to be eligible for GT placement, students must:

- Score at or above the 96% on the composite of a nationally normed test of academic aptitude (Dimension A)

OR

Dimension A	Dimension B	Dimension C
Reasoning Abilities	Achievement	Intellectual/ Academic Per- formance
<p>Criterion: 96% on the composite of nationally normed test of Academic Aptitude OR 93rd percentile or better on any of the subtests (verbal, nonverbal or quantitative) in combination with Dimension B or C</p>	<p>Criterion: 94th percentile or better on Reading Comprehension or Total Math sections of a nationally normed test (such as MAP fall/spring) of academic achievement OR meet the cut score from the state department in one these areas on the SC State Test</p>	<p>Criterion for 2nd —5th Grades: qualification on SC Performance Tasks (Project STAR)</p> <hr/> <p>Criterion for 6th Grade & Above: Grade Point Average of 3.75 of a possible 4.0 on core subjects yearly average (<u>not to be confused with the Uniform Grading Policy's class weighting</u>)</p>

Criteria for Gifted & Talented Program Qualification

To meet the gifted criteria for qualifying, a student must meet the following (July 2013 Regulations):

1. score a composite score (total) which is in the 96th or higher national age percentile (Dimension A)
OR
2. meet the criteria of 2 of the 3 Dimensions:
 - **Dimension A (Aptitude):** 93rd or higher national age percentile rank score
 - **Dimension B (Achievement):** 94th or higher national age percentile score or 3 on PACT (Reading or Math Only)
 - **Dimension C (Intellectual/Academic):** Minimum 3.75 Grade GPA (rising 6th grade and above), **OR**
 - Grades 2-5, qualify according to the SC Performance Task Testing (Project STAR); for each grade level, the student must score the minimum Verbal score indicated or the minimum Nonverbal score as indicated in the chart below.

Grade	Verbal	Nonverbal
2 (P)	16	16
3 (P)	18	18
4 (I)	16	22
5 (I)	18	25

(P) = Primary Level (I) = Intermediate Level