



ADVANCED LEARNING

TALENT DEVELOPMENT & IDENTIFICATION

ACADEMIC, COGNITIVE & CREATIVE ENRICHMENT

Gifted Learner Services

The Cobb County School District provides services for identified gifted students at all grade levels that are designed to meet the specific academic needs of gifted students. Cobb adheres to the rules and regulations established by the Georgia Department of Education for identification and service of gifted learners.

The Gifted Learner Program provides services for identified gifted students at all grade levels. Gifted services are designed to meet the specific academic needs of gifted students by emphasizing the following competencies:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Higher order reasoning
- Comprehensive and thorough research skills
- Advanced and accelerated academics

The requirements for identifying and placing students in the gifted program are governed by [Georgia State Department of Education Rule 160-4-2-.3](#).

Please contact your local school for specific information about available gifted program services.

Gifted Evaluation Process

All gifted assessments in the Cobb County School District adhere to the rules and regulations established by the Georgia Department of Education. There are three steps in the process of identification and placement of students into the gifted program: **referral, assessment, and determination of eligibility.**

Referral

The referral process is the first step of the gifted services eligibility process. A referral may come from teachers, parents, students, or as the result of system wide testing. Referrals are reviewed by each school's local eligibility committee

to determine whether further assessment of a student for gifted eligibility is appropriate.

Assessment

Students are assessed in four areas: mental ability, achievement, creativity, and motivation. Instruments include nationally normed tests, rating scales, and other approved measures. All assessments comply with state rules and regulations. Once assessment is complete, the data is evaluated for determination of eligibility.

Determination of Eligibility

Eligibility may be established in one of two ways:

- **Option A:** The student must meet eligibility requirements in **both** Mental Ability and Achievement:
 - **Mental Ability:** 99th percentile (K-2) or 96th percentile (3-12) on a standardized test of mental ability – Composite Score only
 - **Achievement:** 90th percentile in total battery, total reading, or total math section of a standardized achievement battery
- **Option B:** The student must meet eligibility requirements in **three of the four** following areas:
 - **Mental Ability:** 96th percentile on a standardized test of mental ability –approved component or composite score
 - **Achievement:** 90th percentile in total battery, total reading, or total math section of a standardized achievement battery
 - **Creativity:** 90th percentile / 90 percent on a creativity assessment or rating scale
 - **Motivation:** 90th percentile / 90 percent on a motivation evaluation or rating scale OR for grades 7-12 only, a GPA equivalent to a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale

NOTE: A rating scale can only be used to establish eligibility in one area.

Transfer Students:

- **In-State Transfers:** Any student who meets the eligibility criteria for gifted education services in Georgia is considered eligible to receive gifted education services in Cobb County upon verification of records.
- **Out-of-State and Out-of-District Transfers:** There is no mandated reciprocity between states for gifted eligibility. Outside data must be considered when determining eligibility but does not automatically supplant school-generated data.

Delivery Models

All schools may not offer all options listed below – contact your local school for more information on course offerings and placement requirements.

- **Resource Class** – All students are identified as gifted according to Georgia State Board of Education criteria. Examples: ES Target, MS Resource class, HS gifted electives
- **Advanced Content / Honors** – Students are homogeneously grouped on the basis of academic performance/achievement in a specific academic content area. Classes include gifted and highly-able students who have demonstrated exceptional ability and motivation in a particular content area as determined by criteria.
 - Elementary Advanced Content courses in reading/ELA and math are available at most schools.
 - Middle and high school advanced content/ honors levels courses are available in core content areas. High school courses taught in the middle schools are also considered AC/ Honors level courses.
 - High schools may offer honors classes, Advanced Placement/AP classes (9th – 12th grade) and/or International Baccalaureate/IB classes (11th and 12th grade).
- **Cluster Grouping** – Identified gifted students are placed as a group (recommended 5-8 students) into an otherwise heterogeneous classroom, rather than being dispersed among classes at that grade level.
- **Collaborative Teaching** (K-12) – A maximum of eight identified gifted students are placed as a group into an otherwise heterogeneous classroom. Direct instruction is provided by the students' regular classroom teacher who collaborates with a designated gifted teacher.
- **Continuation of Gifted Services** – Students identified as gifted shall receive at least five segments per week (or the yearly equivalent) of gifted education services. Cobb County sets continued participation guidelines. Probation allows for students to receive interventions when their performance in any gifted service class falls below continuation criteria. Discontinuation of service occurs when a student no longer demonstrates a need for any gifted service.

Continued Participation

Elementary School

- **Resource**
Acceptable progress in the gifted resource classroom is defined as

maintaining a majority of S's and P's each semester. Students must also earn at least one S per standard in 7 out of 10 standards over the course of the year.

Elementary gifted resource students will receive a Target Progress Report provided they are in attendance approximately 65% of the classes offered each semester. Quarterly feedback is provided as needed. At the end of the 4th quarter, student performance for the entire year will be reviewed. The annual review section at the bottom of the progress report will indicate services for the following year. The gifted resource teacher must notify students and their parent/guardian if data indicates probation is a possibility.

- **Additional Service Models**

- Maintaining a grade average of 80 or higher in the advanced content class for which gifted service is provided.
- Meeting standards on the state required competency test in the content area for which gifted service is provided.