

## DeKalb County School District

### Vision

to inspire our community of learners to achieve educational excellence.

### Mission

to ensure student success, leading to higher education, work, and lifelong learning.

### Motto

Inspire. Achieve. Excel.

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### Gifted Education

The vision of the Gifted & Talented Program is to form a collaborative effort that maximizes students' academic potential.

The mission of the Gifted & Talented Program is to support teachers in the area of educating gifted students, offer guidance for parents/guardians of gifted children and provide challenging opportunities for gifted learners.



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## Gifted & Talented

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The Georgia Board of Education defines a gifted student as "a student who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual, creative, and/or artistic ability(ies), possesses exceptional leadership skills, or excels in specific academic fields and who needs special instruction and/or special ancillary services to achieve at levels commensurate with his or her abilities."



## Gifted Program

The procedures for identifying and placing students in the gifted program are governed by the Georgia Department of Education. DeKalb County Schools offers gifted services in grades K–12.

The Gifted Program is part of the Division of Student Services and is funded by the State of Georgia. The procedures for identifying and placing students in the gifted program are governed by the Georgia Department of Education as indicated by the SBOE Rule 160-4-2-38. Gifted instruction shall focus on developing cognitive learning, research and reference, and metacognitive skills.

### Referrals

An automatic referral is conducted through a districtwide assessment process for all students in grades K-10. A reported referral may be made by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents/guardians, peers, self or others with knowledge of student's academic abilities for an eligibility review conducted by the local school's Eligibility Review Team.

### Eligibility

The DeKalb County School District's gifted identification process begins with the achievement category using the Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). The student may:

- ✔ Achieve at least the 90th percentile or higher in either Reading or Math on the Fall, Winter, or Spring MAP assessment
  - Meets the State of Georgia's criteria for giftedness in the Achievement domain
- ✔ Achieve between the 75th – 89th percentile in Reading or Math on the Fall or Winter MAP assessment
  - May be additionally screened in the Achievement domain, using the \*Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) in September (Fall) or February (Winter).
- ✔ Score at least in the 90th percentile in both Creativity and Motivation domains from the Renzulli administration
  - May be additionally screened using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) for Mental Ability domain in February (Winter).

### Assessment Scores

- Private test data from an outside source may not be used to determine eligibility; it may be used as a referral for further evaluation.
- A qualifying score on a nationally normed test is required to meet the criteria in at least one area.
- Any data used to establish eligibility in one area shall not be used to establish eligibility in another area  
Assessment scores are valid for two school years, not calendar years.

## Gifted Program Criteria

To be eligible for gifted services, students must qualify in three of the following areas:

- **Mental Ability** - 96th percentile (or higher) by age on a composite or full scale score or appropriate component score on a standardized test of mental ability Achievement 90th percentile on total reading/total ELA, total math or total battery score on a standardized achievement test
- **Creativity** - 90th percentile (or higher) on the total battery on a standardized test of creativity -OR- 90th percentile (or higher) on a standardized creativity characteristics rating scale
- **Motivation** - 90th percentile (or higher) on a standardized motivational characteristics rating scale -OR- Grade Point Average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in grades 6-12, using an average of core grades over the previous two school years in English, math, science, social studies, and foreign language if applicable.

## Gifted Models

The State of Georgia requires schools to service gifted students using one of the following classroom models:

- **Resource Model** - Students are "pulled out" by a gifted endorsed teacher. Lessons are interdisciplinary, enrichment and extension activities.

- **Cluster Grouping** - Students are served by a gifted endorsed teacher. Instruction is differentiated by content, process, product and/or assessments.
- **Advanced Content (K-12)** - Students are served by a gifted endorsed teacher. Emphasis is placed on process skills, problem-solving activities, research projects and other higher order thinking skills.
- **Advanced Placement (AP)** - AP classes are taught by an AP certified teacher who has completed ten clock hours of Nature and Needs of Gifted. Some IB and advanced courses may be used to provide gifted services.

### New Students

New students to the DeKalb County School District can be referred by parents, teachers, and administrators for an eligibility review conducted by the home school's Eligibility Team. Standardized test scores that are within a two-year period may be used as a referral for further evaluation.

### Transferring within DCSD

If a student in a gifted program is transferring within DCSD, he or she will automatically become part of the receiving school's gifted program.

### Transferring Within the State of Georgia

A student already participating in a gifted program in another Georgia school system will be eligible to participate in the DeKalb County School District's Gifted & Talented Program upon receipt of eligible scores from the sending school and their review by the Eligibility Team.

### Gifted Students from Out-of-State Programs

Gifted students who enroll from an out-of-state program must meet Georgia requirements in order to be placed in the DCSD's Gifted & Talented Program. All scores must be within two school years, and additional assessment may be necessary.

### Continuation Agreement

All identified gifted students are given a Continuation Policy Form that must be reviewed and signed by the parent and the student. Students must maintain a minimum 80% or higher in the gifted and regular classes.

### Probation

If students receiving Gifted Program services fail to maintain a minimum 80% or higher in the gifted class and regular classes, the student will be placed on probation for a period of one semester.