

Kindergarten Screening for Gifted Education Services



The Georgia State Board of Education defines a gifted education student as one who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual and/or creative ability (abilities), exhibits an exceptionally high degree of motivation, and/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 ability (abilities). The procedures for identifying and serving gifted students are governed by the Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.38.

Cobb County 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
- * Extensive and advanced research skills
- * Advanced and accelerated academics

Gifted elementary students can receive services through a variety of models. The primary gifted model of service is Target, a pull-out resource program for gifted-identified students. Other models include advanced content classes, collaborative teaching and planning, and cluster grouping. Gifted models focus on cognitive and affective growth, as well as extension and enrichment of academic standards.

The Gifted evaluation process in CCSD adheres to rules and regulations established by the Georgia DOE. There are four steps taken to identify kindergarten students for gifted services in the spring: screening, referral, assessment, and determination of eligibility.

Screening

Screening is the first step of the gifted services eligibility process. Kindergarten students whose classroom performance greatly exceeds grade level standards in reading and/or math (as determined by district assessments) may be referred for further consideration.

Referral

A referral for kindergarten assessment results from screening data obtained in the general education classroom. Referrals are reviewed by each school's 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 and rating scales. All assessments comply with state rules and regulations. Once assessment is completed, the data is evaluated for determination of eligibility. If a student is found eligible, continuation of gifted services is contingent upon successful performance.

Kindergarten students identified as requiring gifted services will begin classes in fall of 1st grade.

Eligibility for K students may be established in one of two ways:

Option A: A student must meet eligibility requirements in both Mental Abilities and Achievement.

- Mental Ability: 99th percentile on a standardized test of mental ability - Composite Score only
- Achievement: 90th percentile in total reading or total math section of a standardized achievement battery

Option B: A student must meet eligibility requirements in three of four areas. *Two rating scales may not be used for qualification of gifted services.*

- Mental Ability: 96th percentile on a standardized test of mental ability
- Achievement: 90th percentile in total reading or total math section of a standardized achievement battery
- Creativity: 90th percentile on a standardized rating scale
- Motivation: 90th percentile on a standardized rating scale

Additional information can be found at the CCSD Advanced Learning webpage under the heading 'Gifted Learner Services'.