

Academically Gifted and Talented Programs

Identification of Academically Gifted and Talented Students

Qualifying Criteria in Second Grade

In October or November of the second grade year, the SC Department of Education conducts screenings throughout the state for the purpose of identifying students for the academically gifted and talented program. Participation in the gifted and talented program begins in the third grade year. The screenings consist of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), an aptitude test, and the Iowa Test, an achievement test.

Students may qualify the following ways:

1. A composite score at the 96th percentile on the CogAT
2. A composite or sub-test (verbal, non-verbal, or quantitative) score at the 93rd percentile on the CogAT (Dimension A) AND a score at the 94th percentile on the Iowa Test (Dimension B)

If a student meets the requirement under Dimension A (93rd percentile on CogAT) OR Dimension B (94th percentile on Iowa Test), he/she may participate in the Performance Tasks Assessment (Dimension C) in February. A child must meet the criteria under either Dimension A (CogAT) OR Dimension B (Iowa) to be eligible to participate in the Performance Tasks Assessment. A second grader must score a 16 under either the verbal or non-verbal component of the Performance Tasks Assessment in order to qualify under Dimension C. (The qualifying scores on the Performance Tasks Assessment are higher at upper grade levels.) A student must meet the criteria in two of the three dimensions to qualify for the academically gifted and talented program.

Qualifying Criteria in Third, Fourth, & Fifth Grades

Students in grades 3 - 5 may be eligible to take the Performance Tasks Assessment (Dimension C) in February if they meet criteria under Dimension A or Dimension B (outlined in section above). A student must meet the criteria in two of the three dimensions to qualify for the academically gifted and talented program. The qualifying scores on the Performance Tasks Assessment vary according to grade level.

Results of private testing will not be accepted for placing students in Spartanburg District Four's gifted and talented program. The SC Department of Education accepts scores from some states depending on the qualifying criteria of the state.