

BOARD BRIEF

Date: August 19, 2022

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Wendy Gonzalez, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Megan Tempel-Milner, Ph.D., Director of Gifted and Advanced Academic Services

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Talented and Gifted (TAG) Screening Procedures for the 2022–2023 School Year

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2022–2023 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

Focus Area 5: Talented and Gifted

FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of the 2025 Strategic Plan

Reduce Disproportionality in Talented and Gifted (TAG) and Advanced Courses

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this brief is to provide an overview of the TAG screening process for the 2022–2023 academic school year.

- The TAG screening referral deadline varies by grade level and type of service:
 - Grades 4–8 Specific Academic Aptitude Services (SAA): **September 30, 2022**
 - Grades K–3: General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA) services: **November 22, 2022**
 - Grades 3–rising grade 4 (2023–2024) SAA: **February 1, 2023**
- Schools will create screening files, and school screening committees will meet in less than 45 instructional days after each grade level's referral deadline. Each screening window allows for the collection of a robust data set coordinated with ACPS's testing schedule and the end-of-quarter progress and assessment reports.
- The universal screening grades are grade 1 for GIA services and grade 3 (rising grade 4, 2023–2024) for SAA.
- Students in grade 1 will take the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT), and students in grade 3 will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).
- The referral submission process will occur via PowerSchool forms, integrating into ACPS's electronic screening system.

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- Parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten through grade 8 will be notified of the TAG screening process through the TAG website, TAG Screening Leads, school newsletters, and school presentations to parents and guardians.

BACKGROUND:

During the 2019–2022 school years, ACPS modified the TAG screening process to adapt to the pauses in universal testing. The TAG office will return to the typical universal screening grades for the 2022–2023 school year: All students in grade 1 will take the NNAT and all students in grade 3 will take the CogAT, which will serve as a universal screening for automatic TAG referrals. Both tests meet the state requirement for a nationally normed abilities test to be used for TAG screening purposes.

Based on the TAG Local Plan, students may be referred for evaluation for TAG services any time during the school year, from the first day of school to the 90th day of school. Typically, the referral deadline is at the end of January. However, based on feedback from staff and community members, the deadline for TAG services will be earlier in the year so that students who are found eligible may receive services before the mid-second semester.

Parents/guardians or teachers may write and submit referrals through PowerSchool forms, which will allow for seamless data management of referrals and integration of ACPS's further adapted electronic TAG screening system. If a person is not able to submit a referral on PowerSchool, then a hard-copy referral may be obtained on the TAG website or through the TAG Screening Lead at the school. Parents/guardians may find a list of TAG Screening Leads at: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/TAG>.

Finally, to obtain an equitable, robust data set, any referral submitted will be processed within 45 instructional days after each grade- and service-level deadline. The referral deadlines are set to align with testing windows during the ACPS school year, including, NNAT or CogAT assessments, Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments, and end-of-quarter progress reports. The TAG Screening Lead (formally called the TAG Designee) will collect updated achievement scores, gifted rating scale scores, and work samples through the screening process. Screening all referred students during these screening windows increases equitable access for students screened for TAG services using a more robust data set.

Please see the attachment for a chart outlining the 2022–2023 school year's screening timeline and procedures.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information within this brief.

IMPACT:

The process and timelines outlined in this brief allow schools to obtain equitable, robust data sets during the TAG screening process.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2022-2023_TAG_Screening_Timeline_and_Procedures

CONTACT:

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