

What is a gifted learner?

Florida's current definition of giftedness is: *One who has superior intellectual development and is capable of high performance.*

Gifted students have superior intellectual development and are capable of high performance. The purpose of education for gifted students is to provide appropriate educational experiences that foster the development of their potential and their unique abilities.

Determining eligibility for the gifted program:

Plan A: A student is eligible for the gifted program if the student: (1) demonstrates a need for a special program, (2) has the majority of characteristics of gifted students according to a standard scale or checklist, and (3) has very superior intellectual development as measured by an individually administered standardized test of intelligence.

Plan B: A student is eligible if the student: (1) is a member of an underrepresented group and (2) meets the criteria specified in an approved school district plan for increasing the participation of under-represented groups in programs for gifted students. Standardized test scores, academic performance and a teacher rating scale determine criteria for eligibility for the gifted program, as well as superior intellectual development as measured by an individually administered standardized test of intelligence.

Under-represented students are defined as:

- a. individuals who are English Language Learners (ELL), or
- b. individuals who are from a low socio-economic status family

An English Language Learner (ELL) is a student for whom English is not the native language, and who has been identified by results of a nationally-normed test of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Students will be identified as being from a low socio-economic family based on the federal guidelines that identify students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch and/or Florida Department of Children and Families guidelines for families whose income falls below federal poverty levels or who are living in low-income housing.

Who can recommend students for gifted screening?

Gifted screening can be initiated at the request of the parents/guardians or the classroom teacher.

How do parents/guardians make their request for screening?

Referrals for gifted screening are made to the principal's designee, typically the school counselor. The counselor begins the multi-step process by completing appropriate paperwork, conducting a screening, and referring for individual evaluation by a school psychologist, if screening criteria is met.

How often can a student be screened for the gifted program?

Once a student has been screened, a minimum of six months must pass before the student can go through the screening process again. The school counselor keeps a log of testing dates.

How often can a student be evaluated by the school psychologist for the gifted program?

Under normal circumstances, a student should be evaluated by Duval County school psychologists for gifted services eligibility only once. If new information becomes available or a parent/guardian requests a second psychoeducational evaluation, and it has been more than one calendar year since the first evaluation, the current information should be reviewed by the Multidisciplinary Referral Team (MRT) to determine if a new IQ test will be recommended. The MRT will document their recommendation. A student may be given an individual IQ test by a Duval County school psychologist for consideration of gifted program placement only twice in his entire school career. Private evaluation reports should be given to the school counselor for referral to the MRT, as appropriate.

How long is it between the time that consent is given for testing until the actual testing occurs?

It varies from school to school and from one time of the school year to another. Each school has an assigned school psychologist; however, each psychologist may be assigned to multiple schools. Students who are recommended for individual testing are placed on a waiting list. The testing must be completed within 90 school days that the student is in attendance from the date the referral is received by the school psychologist.

When will the results of the testing be available?

This information will not be available until all departmental procedures are completed. At that time the school counselor will contact the parent/guardian.

Can students be tested privately for the gifted program?

Yes, parents/guardians may pursue private testing, at their own expense. If parents/guardians are interested in pursuing private testing, they may call the Gifted

Specialist for names of psychologists that provide testing. After testing is completed, a copy of the private psychological report, as well as copies of test protocols, should be forwarded through the school counselor to the school psychologist for review.

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