

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding AIG

1. How are students identified for AIG services?

Gifted education services are provided for students who perform at substantially higher levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. Any student in grades kindergarten through twelve may be referred for these services by a teacher, parent, or person having academic knowledge of the student. Students may also self-nominate. The AIG teacher will complete an Individual Student Identification Profile on each referred student and will present all data to the school's Needs Determination Team (NDT). The NDT will evaluate the data to determine if the student meets district criteria for AIG identification. If the student meets district criteria, the NDT will determine what gifted education services are most appropriate. The NDT may conclude that a student requires gifted services even though they do *not* meet the criteria. In such a case, members will decide which services are most appropriate for that student.

2. What AIG program service options are available?

Chatham County Schools offers a continuum of services to address the unique needs of gifted learners in grades kindergarten through twelve. These services are accessible to all AIG-identified students in the district based on student needs. Options range from in-class flexible grouping to independent study and online courses. A full listing is found in the *Plan for Gifted Education*.

3. What information is reviewed in determining the need for services?

- classroom performance
- student interests and motivation
- student work products
- research-based inventories
- AIG identification from another school system
- standardized achievement test scores
- standardized aptitude test scores

4. Who can take high school honors courses?

This service option is available to all CCS high school students. Honors courses adhere to specific state standards designed to provide rigorous curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

5. What is the Advanced Placement (AP) Program?

This service option is available at the high school level for students ready for college level instruction. Our high schools offer AP courses in some content areas. These courses

are first-year college courses offered in high school. Students may earn college credit if they score at the required level on the respective AP exam.

6. How often can a child be tested for AIG eligibility?

If a student fails to meet eligibility criteria when his/her data is collected and discussed by the Needs Determination Team, the student may be tested again no sooner than one full year after the testing was administered.

7. If my child was in a gifted program elsewhere, can AIG services be provided here?

Students new to Chatham County Schools who have been identified for gifted education in their previous school can continue to receive services here. The school will provide gifted education services until the Needs Determination Team assesses the student's needs. The review will be based on Chatham's criteria, and parents will be notified of the results.

8. How do I know if my child is really gifted?

Article 9B of the North Carolina General Assembly defines academically or intellectually gifted students as "performing or showing the potential to perform at substantially high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment." Ask these questions:

- Does my child have exceptional abilities in one or more areas?
- Does my child consistently perform two or more grade levels beyond what is expected?

9. What is the difference between a high achiever and being gifted?

Students who are high achievers are those who typically are good students, do what is expected of them, please teachers, and like school for what it is. Gifted students are often more of a challenge to teachers, by always asking questions, questioning what is being offered, and may be less inclined to do what is asked of them.

10. Who can I contact for additional information about the AIG program?

The AIG specialists can provide additional information and can be contacted at each K-8 school. You may also contact the AIG Coordinator at the Central Office.