

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY TALENTED AND GIFTED PROGRAM TAG IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Overview

1. Each school is to establish a Talented and Gifted (TAG) Committee Review Team to be comprised of an Administrator, TAG Coordinator, classroom teachers, special educator and, where applicable, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher. This committee meets to review nominations and pertinent data to determine the continuation of the screening process for identification. Recommendations and screening paperwork are to be submitted to the TAG Office staff for approval and processing.
2. Students are identified using a balance of quantitative and qualitative measures for inclusion in the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program following specific procedures. Several basic concepts are incorporated into the identification procedures including the following:
 - a) Multiple opportunities for identification
 1. Global testing – all students are tested in grades one (1) and three (3).
 2. Off-level testing - students may also be nominated by teacher or parent for screening in grade two (2), and in grades four (4) through seven (7).
 3. Re-screens – Students who are screened with qualifying test data but need improvement in other areas are recommended for rescreening within the next semester.
 - b) Multiple criteria – selection for the TAG Program is based on the assessment of a variety of quantitative and qualitative measures which are aligned to and meet the *National Association of Gifted Children Exemplary Standards*.
 - c) TAG Committee Review Team – a group of school-based professional educators analyze all appropriate data regarding placement recommendations. The TAG Supervisor or Specialist reviews, approves, processes, and codes TAG-identified students.
3. The system's goal is to identify students for the TAG Program to ensure access for students from all cultural, ethnically, linguistically, and socio-economic backgrounds.
4. Student assessment data comes from multiple sources and represents an appropriate balance of quantitative and qualitative measures, including cognitive ability assessment data, achievement test data, gifted characteristics and behaviors checklist, and report card data.
5. The TAG Office has established multiple paths to identification in designated areas of giftedness procedures and alternative pathways for identifying TAG students with specific learning needs and/or students who have participated in the English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program.

6. Timeline for TAG Identification and Screening

Grade	Testing	Screening
Grade 1	All first graders are tested in the fall with the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (see Testing Calendar)	When data is made available (December-February)
Grade 2	September – December (if there is no existing data)	Completed by the end of First Semester
Grade 3	All third graders are tested in the fall with the Otis Lennon School Ability Test and Nationally-normed Math and Reading Achievement Tests (see Testing Calendar)	When data is made available (December-February)
Grades 4-7	September – December (if there is no existing data)	Completed by the end of First Semester

7. Nominations for Identification

Nomination	Grades
Test Nomination	Grade 1 - 80 percentile or above on the OLSAT Grade 3 – 80 percentile or above on the OLSAT Grade 3 – 89 percentile or above on achievement tests
Teacher/Staff Nomination	Grades 1-7: Teachers/staff may nominate additional students demonstrating characteristics of gifted students. To help identify talent, teachers are to use the Behavioral Checklist. Based on observations from the Behavioral Checklist, teachers may nominate students for screening by requesting and completing a Talented and Gifted Program Teacher Checklist. (September-December)
Parent Nomination	Grades 1-7: Parents may nominate students by making a written request for screening to the TAG Coordinator (September – December)
Self-Nomination	Grades 1-7: Students may request screening by completing a TAG Self-nomination Form and submitting to TAG Coordinator (September-December)
New PGCPs Registrants	Grades 1-7: Parents of newly enrolled students may request TAG screening upon registration. Students previously identified by other school systems will have data reviewed by the TAG Office to determine comparability to PGCPs criteria.

8. Additional Testing - Students in grades five (5) through seven (7) who are nominated for TAG screening and for whom recent test data are not available take the appropriate Otis Lennon School Abilities Test and School College Ability Test (SCAT). This need for additional testing is decided on a case-by-case basis. Any student new to the school system can be tested and screened for the TAG Program. The administration of a non-verbal assessment is decided on a case-by-case basis, with consideration given to underrepresented populations who may not qualify through traditional assessment methods.
9. Non-public school students may apply for non-public testing and are screened using system identification procedures. The non-public applications packets are due mid-January and the testing date is scheduled annually in February. Testing and screening procedures are completed by the TAG Office staff.
10. Data Collection - data are also captured from the following sources:
 - a. Teacher Checklists based on Dr. Joseph Renzulli's Three Ring Conception of Giftedness Model.
 - b. Parent Checklist and Survey Form.
 - c. Student record data - report card grades, documentation of ESOL services, documentation of Special Education IEP or 504 Plans.
 - d. English as a Second Language (ESOL), documentation of Special Education IEP or 504 Plans.
 - e. In cases where students have been previously identified by other school systems, these data are reviewed for comparability to PGCPs criteria by the TAG Office staff.
11. Parent Notification
 - a. The TAG Coordinator, in collaboration with the TAG Office, will notify parents of a child's TAG screening status in a timely fashion prior to the PGCPs Lottery.
 - b. All TAG identified students will automatically receive TAG services the subsequent school year.