



DEPARTMENT OF TEACHING, LEARNING, AND LEADERSHIP

MEMORANDUM

September 28, 2021

FROM: Meghan Tempel-Milner, Ph.D., Director of Gifted and Advanced Academic Services

THROUGH: Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Instructional Support
Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership

TO: Principals and Senior Leader Team
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Talented and Gifted Screening Procedures for SY 2021-2022

SUMMARY

The purpose of this brief is to provide an overview of the Talented and Gifted (TAG) screening process for the 2021–2022 academic school year.

- The TAG screening deadline is November 12, 2021. This deadline is earlier than previous years to screen and serve students earlier in the school year.
- Any student in kindergarten through 8th grade referred between January 29, 2021, and November 12, 2021, will go through the entire TAG screening process. Schools will create screening files, and committees will meet in less than 45 days after this deadline. The screening window allows for the collection of an equitable robust data set.
- Students in 1st and 2nd grades will take the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT), and students in 3rd and 4th grades will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).
- The referral submission process will occur via PowerSchool forms, integrating into ACPS's new electronic TAG screening system.
- Parents/guardians of students in kindergarten through 8th grade will be notified of the TAG screening plan through the TAG website, TAG designees, school newsletters, and school presentations to parents and guardians.

BACKGROUND

During the 2020–2021 school year, ACPS modified the TAG screening process, which included pausing universal testing for all 1st and 3rd grade students. The TAG office made these changes due to inequitable access to testing for all 1st- and 3rd-grade students. As a result of this pause, all students in 1st and 2nd grades will take the NNAT, and all students in 3rd and 4th grades will take the CogAT during the 2021–2022 school year. These tests meet the state requirement for a nationally normed abilities test

to be used for TAG screening purposes. They will also serve as a universal screener for automatic TAG referrals.

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. Still, with the pause from last year, our deadline is moved up earlier in the year, so students who are found eligible may receive services earlier than the mid-second semester. Therefore, the 2021–2022 referral deadline for TAG screening is Friday, November 12, 2021. Parents/guardians or teachers may write and submit referrals through PowerSchool forms. This system will allow for a seamless data management of referrals and integration of ACPS’s new electronic TAG screening system.

Finally, to obtain an equitable, robust data set, any referral submitted between January 29, 2021, and November 12, 2021, will be processed within 45 instructional days after November 12, 2021. This will ensure that all students who need an ability score will obtain one during the appropriate testing window for the NNAT or CogAT assessments. In addition, the TAG designee will collect updated achievement scores, gifted rating scale scores, and work samples through the fall. Screening all referred students after the November 12, 2021, deadline increases equitable access for students screened for TAG services using a more robust data set.

Below is a chart outlining the screening timeline and procedures for the 2021–2022 school year.

Chart 1: Screening Process for Grades K–8 for the 2021–2022 School Year

Timeline	Topic	Purpose	Grades
September 8, 2021	Due Date: Appeals From 2020–2021 Screening	All appeals are due for students <u>referred and not found eligible</u> for TAG services during the 2020–2021 school year. Additional information about the appeals process is located at: https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/410 .	Grades 1–8
September– October 2021	Appeals Committee Meets	The TAG Appeals Committee will meet to review appealed screening files. Parents/guardians will receive eligibility notification within 15 school days of the appeals meeting. Students eligible through the appeals process may begin services once parents submit permission for services to the school.	Grades 1–8
Early to Mid-October 2021	TAG Services Overview	Schools will host a TAG services overview meeting for parents/guardians. In addition, schools will provide information via school newsletters.	Grades K–8
October 2021	Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT) Testing	Universal ability testing will take place for 1st and 2nd graders.	Grades 1–2

Timeline	Topic	Purpose	Grades
October– November 12, 2021	Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Testing	Universal ability testing will take place for 3rd and 4th graders.	Grades 3–4
November 12, 2021	Referrals Due Date	All TAG referrals are due by November 12, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Parents/teachers may submit electronic referral forms via PowerSchool. Parents/guardians who require a hard copy of the referral form should contact the TAG designee at their child’s school. Parents/guardians may find a list of TAG designees at https://www.acps.k12.va.us/tag .	Grades K–8
November 2021–January 2022	Screening Eligibility	Schools will collect information and determine eligibility for General Intellectual Ability (GIA) and Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) services for any student referred between January 29, 2021, and November 12, 2021.	Grades K–8
January 2022	Placement	A student found eligible for services will start TAG services placement upon the signed permission of services.	Grades K–8
February 2022–March 2022	Appeals Committee Meets	The TAG Appeals Committee will meet to review appealed screening files. Parents/guardians will receive eligibility notification within 15 school days of the appeals meeting. Students eligible through the appeals process may begin services once parents give permission for services to the school.	Grades K–8

CONTACT

Megan Tempel-Milner, Ph.D., Director of Gifted and Advanced Academic Services,
megan.tempel-milner@acps.k12.va.us