



Gifted Services Characteristics and Referral Process

Gifted Services Department
Newport News Public Schools

Bright student or gifted student?

Bright student

Knows the answers
Is interested
Has good ideas
Works hard
Answers the questions
Is in the top group
Listens with interest
Learns with ease
Requires 6-8 repetitions for mastery
Enjoys peers
Grasps the meaning
Copies accurately
Enjoys school
Absorbs information
Is a technician
Enjoys sequential learning

Gifted Student

Asks the questions
Is highly curious
May have wild, silly ideas
May play around, yet tests well
Discusses in detail, elaborates
Goes beyond the group
May show strong feelings
Already knows
May require little repetition
Prefers adults
Draws inferences
Creates a new design
Enjoys learning
Manipulates information
Is an inventor
Thrives on complexity

Characteristics to consider when referring a student:

Advanced Language

- Uses descriptive or figurative language; multisyllabic; rich imagery
- Displays verbal skills when teaching others, handling conflicts, or influencing the behaviour of others.
- Expresses similarities and differences
- Uses specific language of a discipline.

Perspective

- Interprets another's point of view
- Creates and interprets more complex shapes, patterns, or graphics than age mates
- Adds interesting components to enhance products

Analytical Thinking

- Demonstrates complex and abstract thinking
- Observes intensely; is unusually attentive to details in their environment
- Takes apart and reassembles ideas, objects or experiences
- Analyzes cause and effect, consequences or alternatives

Characteristics to consider when referring a student:

Motivation

- Is philosophical; pursues issues atypical of age mates
- Is curious; asks intellectual questions; intense need to understand
- Displays an unexpected depth of knowledge in one or more areas; an “expert”
- Demonstrates intense task commitment and energy when pursuing interests; persistent
- Wants to do things independently

Sense of Humor

- Says or does something indicating a sense of humor beyond age mates
- Catches an adult’s subtle or sophisticated humor
- Uses figurative language for humorous effect
- Understands and responds to use of puns and riddles

Characteristics to consider when referring a student:

Sensitivity

- Exhibits intense concern for human issues
- Shows nonverbal awareness of another's needs and feelings
- Displays a strong sense of fairness and justice
- Expresses high expectations of self and others; senses discord or dissatisfaction
- Overreacts at times

Accelerated Learning

- Requires minimum repetition for mastery
- Increases rate of learning after introduction and exposure
- Categorizes by multiple, often less-obvious, attributes
- Demonstrates an unexpected mastery in one or more subjects.
- Creates advanced products

Gifted Characteristics Checklist for Underrepresented Populations

Verbal Abilities

- expanded vocabulary
- asks unusual questions to find out information
- expresses ideas well
- elaborates on questions for information
- vivid language- clever wit

Learning Characteristics

- exhibits quick mastery of skills
- interest in how things work
- recall of information
- ability to see relationships and make connections, sees patterns
- non-traditional computation
- flexible thinker
- retains information with less repetition
- questioning attitude
- performs well mathematically
- can have perfectionist tendencies
- displays creativeness and originality

-adapted from Project Horizon

Gifted Characteristics Checklist for Underrepresented Populations

Social Abilities and Leadership Skills

- may be a leader among peers
- unusual sense of humor (may be seen as clowning around)
- independent
- often finds and corrects mistakes of others
- can be overly sensitive
- adapts well to new situations
- self-confident in age group
- can either be cooperative with adults and classmates or can be viewed as acting out, impatient, or persistent
- can be viewed as off-task if bored with repetitive tasks
- can exhibit certain behaviors with age/social peers and then different behaviors in the classroom with intellectual peers
- can rationalize actions
- values social relationships and community

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Student Characteristics

- expresses feelings and emotions easily, expressive with gestures, body language
- ability to improvise with materials and objects
- articulate in role-playing, storytelling, rich imagery in formal and informal language
- adheres to traditional family responsibilities, takes pride in language and culture
- prefers collaboration
- asks thoughtful questions, is observant, sees relationships, connections, and “the big picture”
- gives creative, insightful, or unusual responses
- receiving ELL services, but is learning English very quickly

| Grade | Assessment | Referral Window | Testing Window |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Transfer, military dependent, and new to the system students | NNAT and/or OLSAT | Upon arrival | Testing as soon as referred |
| 2 nd grade universal screening | NNAT | N/A | October 7-18, 2024 |
| 5 th grade referred students | NNAT | September 16-23, 2024 | October 7-18, 2024 |
| 2 nd and 5 th OLSAT screening for qualified students | OLSAT | N/A | November 18-26, 2024 |
| 9 th and 10 th grade (SRGS) referred students | NNAT, OLSAT and/or Stanford | November 15, 2024-December 13, 2024 | January 6-10, 2025 |
| 3 rd and 4 th grade referred students | NNAT and OLSAT | January 7-14, 2025 | February 3-13, 2025 |
| 6 th -11 th grade referred students | NNAT and OLSAT | February 3-10, 2025 | March 4-14, 2025 |
| Kindergarten and 1 st grade referred students | NNAT | March 3-7, 2025 | April 16-25, 2025 |

2024-2025 Gifted Services Referral and Testing Windows

- Referrals should be sent to Ange Moore at ange.moore@nn.k12.va.us . You can use the referral form Ange will email you or you can submit the KOI observation form.
 - Questions should be referred Dr. Kimberly Beckerdite to the Department of Gifted Services at 757-591-4566 or kimberly.beckerdite@nn.k12.va.us
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