

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Principals
Gifted and Talented Coordinators

FROM: Kristi D. Austin, PhD
Director, Office of Assessment and Standards

DATE: September 9, 2025

RE: Identification of Gifted and Talented Students

Under SC Code § 59-29-170 and SC Code Ann. Regs 43-220, all South Carolina districts must identify and serve gifted and talented students in elementary and secondary schools.

Identification Criteria for 2025–2026

Students must qualify in two of the following three dimensions:

- **Dimension A — Aptitude**
Score at or above the 93rd percentile in one area (verbal, nonverbal, or quantitative) or 96th percentile composite on an approved aptitude test.
Valid for 5 years.
- **Dimension B — Achievement**
Score at or above the 94th percentile in reading and/or math on an approved achievement test.
Valid for 2 years.
- **Dimension C — Performance**

Grades 2–5: Meet qualifying scores on the Performance Task Assessment (PTA)

- 2nd: 16+ (verbal or nonverbal)
- 3rd: 18+ (verbal or nonverbal)
- 4th: 16+ (verbal) and 22+ (nonverbal)
- 5th: 18+ (verbal) and 25+ (nonverbal)

Grades 6–12: GPA of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale

Statewide Screening

All 2nd grade students are administered:

- **CogAT** (for Dimension A)
- **Iowa Assessments** (for Dimension B)

These serve as the required universal screeners.

Approved Assessments

The purpose of the following approved assessment list is to provide districts choices in second assessments for students in grades 3–12 that were not identified through the required universal screeners provided by the state.

Dimension A – Aptitude

- CogAT
- Differential Ability Scales – Second Edition (DAS-II)
- Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3)
- Naglieri General Ability Test (Verbal, Nonverbal, Quantitative) *
- Raven’s Progressive Matrices, Second Edition (Raven’s 2)
- Stanford–Binet Intelligence Scales, Fifth Edition (SB5)
- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fifth Edition (WISC-V)
- Woodcock-Johnson IV Tests of Cognitive Abilities (WJ IV COG)

Dimension B – Achievement

- i-Ready
- Iowa Assessments (IA)
- Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement, Third Edition (KTEA-3)
- MAP Growth
- Renaissance STAR*
- SC READY
- Smarter Balanced (Grades 3–8)
- Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (Stanford 10)
- Woodcock-Johnson IV Tests of Achievement (WJ IV)

Dimension C – Performance

- Performance Task Assessment (Grades 2–5)
- Grade Point Average (Grades 6–12)

*These assessments were piloted for the 2022–23 and 2023–24 school years while the state and vendor collected data. We are awaiting updates for the 2025–2026 school year.

Coordinator Training

A full-day training for new Gifted and Talented Coordinators will be held on September 24, 2025, at the SC Department of Education. Please confirm attendance by completing the [registration form](#) by September 17, which will assist us in making appropriate arrangements.

Contacts

- **Assessment Questions:** David Trombly – dctrombly@ed.sc.gov
- **Program/Identification Questions:** Jennifer Holliday – jnholliday@ed.sc.gov