

**Who decides if my child has attributes of giftedness?**

That depends on which gifted service your child has been referred. For school-based gifted services, the school selection committee, comprised of the lead instructional coach, an administrator, counselor, special education teacher, and/or general classroom teacher makes the eligibility decision. Decisions will be mailed to parents within 10 school days of the committee meeting. For GO Center services, a central selection committee comprised of administrators, counselors, principals, school psychologists, program specialists, and/or lead instructional coaches makes the eligibility decision. Those decisions will be mailed on the last academic calendar day of the current school year.

**My child was found eligible for services. What happens now?**

Once you receive the letter that your child was found eligible for a particular level of service, first you must sign the form to give the school permission to provide services. Once the school has received permission, services will commence.

**My child was not found eligible for services. Is there an appeal process?**

Yes. For school-based gifted services, you may appeal the decision within 10 instructional day after being informed of the committee's decision. A formal appeal must be submitted in writing to the principal of the student's school. Once the principal receives the appeal, he/she and the Lead Instructional Coach will meet with the parent/guardian within 20 instructional days to review the identification file results. Any change in decision will be made by the school principal. Appeal decisions are filed in the student's permanent record. An Instructional Supervisor may attend school level appeal meetings upon request.

For GO Center services, a formal appeal must be submitted in writing to the Department of Curriculum & Instruction within 10 days of receiving an ineligibility letter. Appeals are reviewed by a division appeals committee. Students and/or parents are invited to present additional, pertinent information that they feel would be helpful to the committee in making a decision with the exception of testing conducted outside the school division. The minutes and decisions will be filed in the student's permanent record. Parents will be notified of the committee's decision within 20 instructional days of receipt of the written appeal.

**What if my child was found eligible for Go Center, but wants to remain at his/her base school?**

You may decline services at any time. In the case of GO Center, if you choose to remain at your base school, your child automatically qualifies for pull out gifted services. Those will begin once the school has received permission to receive services from you.

**Who do I contact if I want more information about gifted services in Lynchburg City Schools?**

You may contact either your school's Lead Instructional Coach or the Department of Curriculum & Instruction. We always welcome inquiries into the opportunities we provide for our gifted students.

Frequently Asked Questions:  
**SCREENING,  
REFERRAL, &  
IDENTIFICATION**  
for Students with Attributes  
of Academic Giftedness

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOLS

For more information, please contact:

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### **What does it mean to be “gifted”?**

Students who are identified as gifted have the potential to achieve high levels of accomplishment. Rigorous curriculum, instructional experiences that offer deep and complex content, and a variety of services help ensure these needs are recognized and addressed.

There are two areas in which LCS identifies giftedness: General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA) and Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA). Students identified with GIA are those who demonstrate or have the potential to demonstrate superior reasoning; persistent intellectual curiosity; advanced use of language; exceptional problem solving; rapid acquisition and mastery of facts, concepts, and principles; and creative and imaginative expression across a broad range of intellectual disciplines beyond their age-level peers. Students identified with SAA in either English, math, or both are those who demonstrate or have the potential to demonstrate superior reasoning; persistent intellectual curiosity; advanced use of language; exceptional problem solving; rapid acquisition and mastery of facts, concepts, and principles; and creative and imaginative expression beyond their age-level peers in selected academic areas that include English and/or mathematics.

### **What information is used to determine if my child is eligible for gifted services?**

Schools administer two tests to all LCS students in first and second grade according to the annual timeline below. Students must be enrolled in and attending LCS in order to be tested. Scores from an ability test and an achievement test are required for the screening process.

**December:** Stanford 10 Achievement Test (administered to *all second grade students*)

**December:** Naglieri Nonverbal Test (administered to *all first grade students*)

In addition to the Naglieri and Stanford tests mentioned above, teachers will complete a checklist of common characteristics of gifted students based on their experiences with the student in school. Other data may include the following: most recent SOL scores, work samples, progress reports, interviews, and observations. Awards, letters of recommendation, additional test data may also be submitted.

### **What if my child scores really well on one or both of the screening tests?**

Any student scoring a Naglieri Ability Index of 120 or above on the Naglieri Nonverbal Test or an 86% or higher on the Stanford 10 Achievement Test will be placed in the pool for consideration for gifted services. You will receive a high-score letter if your child's scores places him or her in the pool.

### **What if my child does not score high enough to be placed in the pool for consideration?**

There are multiple points of entry into the pool. If your child's scores do not place him/her in the pool, you may refer the student to be considered for gifted services. To do so, you may request a referral form from your school's Lead Instructional Coach. Referrals for school-based gifted services are accepted any time during the academic year, with school-based eligibility meetings held twice per year-late October and early May. Referral forms received by the last day of the first quarter, will be addressed in the October meeting. Referral forms received by the last day of April will be addressed in the May meeting. Any referrals after May will be handled on an individual basis.

Referrals for GO Center services must be received by March 15th.

### **Who can refer a child for services other than a parent or guardian?**

Any teacher, principal, or counselor may refer a student for consideration for gifted services. The student may also refer him/herself.

### **I filled out the referral form, what happens next?**

Once the Lead Instructional Coach receives a referral form from any source, he/she will send home a letter acknowledging that a referral was received. At the bottom of this form is a place for the parent/guardian to grant permission to collect data that would demonstrate the student's attributes of giftedness. The school cannot move forward in the process until they have gained parent permission. Included in that mailing is a parent questionnaire. If you would like your child to be considered for gifted services, please complete this questionnaire in its entirety, giving specific examples of how your child demonstrates the various characteristics. Return all completed forms to your school's Lead Instructional Coach within 10 school days of receipt.

### **What gifted services are offered?**

All students enrolled in Lynchburg City Schools receive differentiated instruction. This means that the teacher and school personnel consistently assess how the student is progressing and provide appropriate learning experiences to address both the strengths and weaknesses of individual students.

**Pull-out Gifted Services:** The teacher provides differentiated learning experiences to challenge these students. The Lead Instructional coach provides enrichment through at least a 45 minute pull out once per week.

**GO Center (at R.S. Payne Elementary):** The Gifted Opportunities Center teachers provide accelerated, inquiry based curriculum and instruction that allows students to delve into concepts with depth and complexity. Common methods of demonstrating learning include presentations, reports, and projects. This is a full-time gifted program for grades 3-5.