

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
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. Universal testing – all students are tested in Grades 1 and 4. All test data is valid for 2 years.
    2. New Registrant testing – all newly registered PGCPS students in Grades 2, 3, and 5. All test data is valid for 2 years.
    3. Off-level testing - students may also be nominated by teacher or parent for screening in Grade 2 and in Grades 4 through 7. Students without valid test scores will require off-level testing. All test data is valid for 2 years.
    4. Re-screens – Students who are screened with qualifying test data but need improvement in other areas may be recommended for rescreening while test data is valid.
  - 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* and COMAR 13A.04.07.
  - 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. PGCPS' goal is to identify students for the TAG Program to ensure access for students from all cultural, ethnic, linguistic, 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 which include procedures and alternative pathways for identifying Twice Exceptional students 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 (OLSAT) (see Testing Calendar)	When data is made available (December-February)
Grade 2	New registrants to PGCPs in Grade 2 will be tested in the fall with the Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT) October – November (see Testing Calendar)	Completed by the end of first semester
Grade 3	New registrants to PGCPs in Grade 3 will be tested in the fall with Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) (see Testing Calendar)	Completed by the end of first semester
Grades 4	All fourth graders who are not already identified for TAG services are tested in the fall/winter with the Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT). Additional standardized and normed reading and math achievement assessments will be administered when appropriate. (see Testing Calendar)	Completed by the end of first semester or early February
Grade 5	New registrants to PGCPs in Grades 5 will be tested in the fall/winter with the Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT). Additional standardized and normed reading and math achievement assessments will be administered when appropriate. (see Testing Calendar)	Completed by the end of first semester or early February
Grades 1-7	Students registering after testing deadlines may still be tested upon parent request. Parents should contact the TAG Coordinator or	Screening is dependent upon date of testing.

	middle school professional school counselor for screening.	
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## 7. Nominations for Identification

Nomination	Grades
Test Nomination	Grade 1: 81 percentile or above on the Otis Lennon School Abilities Tests (OLSAT) Grade 4: 81 percentile or above on a combination of two of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) sections (verbal, non-verbal, or quantitative) or 89 percentile or above on reading and math achievement assessments.
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 available from TAG Coordinator. Based on observations from the Behavioral Checklist, teachers may nominate students for screening by December 15 <sup>th</sup> .
Parent Nomination	Grades 1-7: Parents may nominate students by making a written request for screening to the TAG Coordinator by January 15 <sup>th</sup> .
Self-Nomination	Grades 1-7: Students may request screening by completing a TAG Self-nomination form and submitting to TAG Coordinator by January 15 <sup>th</sup> .
New PGCPs Registrants (July-November)	Grades 2 and 3: Newly registered students will be tested with a cognitive ability assessment and all students scoring an 81 percentile or higher will be nominated for screening.  Grade 5: Newly registered students to PGCPs will be tested with the CogAT, and all students scoring 81 percentile or above on a combination of two of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) sections (verbal, non-verbal, or quantitative) will be nominated for screening.  Students previously identified by other school systems will have data reviewed by the TAG Office to determine comparability to PGCPs criteria.
New PGCPs Registrants	Grades 6-7: Newly registered students to PGCPs may be nominated by parents for TAG screening upon registration and parents should contact the TAG Coordinator or middle school professional school counselor to request screening.  Students previously identified by other school systems will have data reviewed by the TAG Office to determine comparability to PGCPs

	criteria.
New PGCPS Registrants past testing deadlines	<p>Grades 1-7: Newly registered students to PGCPS may be nominated by parents for TAG screening upon registration and parents should contact the TAG Coordinator or middle school professional school counselor to request screening.</p> <p>Students previously identified by other school systems will have data reviewed by the TAG Office to determine comparability to PGCPS criteria.</p>

8. Additional Testing - The administration of a non-verbal assessment is decided on a case-by-case basis, with consideration given to underrepresented populations or Twice Exceptional Learners who may not qualify through traditional assessment methods.
9. Private and home school students who are residents of Prince George's County may apply for Private and Home School Testing and will be screened using PGCPS identification procedures. The Private and Home School application packets are available on the TAG website each November and the deadline is due mid-January. The testing date is scheduled annually on a Saturday in January or February. There are no make-up tests and no walk ins. The TAG Office staff completes the testing and screening procedures. Because test data is valid for 2 years, PGCPS does not retest students who have valid test data.
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. Student record data - report card grades, reading achievement, documentation of English as a Second Language (ESOL) services and WIDA data, documentation of Special Education IEP or 504 Plans.
  - c. In cases where students have been previously identified by other school systems, submitted data are reviewed for comparability to PGCPS criteria by the TAG Office staff.
11. Parent Notification
- a. The school-based TAG Coordinator will notify parents of a child's TAG screening status in a timely fashion prior to the PGCPS lottery deadline in March.
  - b. All TAG identified students will automatically receive TAG services the subsequent school year.
12. Appeals Process

- a. Parents may request a review of the screening process by contacting the school-based TAG Coordinator to review the student's screening paperwork.
- b. Parents may request a rescreening with a new teacher checklist and/or report card grades.
- c. Parents may request a further review of the TAG screening documents by contacting the TAG Office Supervisor.
- d. Final appeals request may be submitted to the Office of Appeals. The Office of Appeals designee will review the appeal.