

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Principals
District Gifted and Talented Coordinators

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

DATE: September 1, 2026

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 2026–2027

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) or 22+ (nonverbal)
 - 5th: 18+ (verbal) or 25+ (nonverbal)**Grades 6–12:** GPA of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale including English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Year-Long World Languages.

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

- DRC Beacon (Grades 3-8)
- 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 accepting these for the 2026–2027 school year.

Coordinator Training

September 1, 2026

A full-day training for Gifted and Talented Coordinators will be held on **September 28, 2026**, at River Center, Saluda Shoals Park, 5605 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29212. Please confirm attendance by completing the [registration form](#) by **September 18**, 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