



Dawson County Schools

28 Main Street

Dawsonville, GA 30534

(706) 265-3246

FAX (706) 265-1226

www.dawsoncountyschools.org

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Dawson County School System follows the state-mandated gifted rule (160-4-2-.38) in providing services to those students who are identified as gifted. State guidelines require that parents/guardians of all public-school students being considered to receive gifted education services be informed of the referral procedures and eligibility criteria, the notice of initial consideration for gifted education services, evaluation guidelines, types of services provided, and instructional methods, continuation criteria, probationary status, and termination of services.

The Dawson County Board of Education recognizes the need to provide gifted education services for students with the potential for exceptional academic achievement in grades K-12. A gifted student meets the eligibility criteria identified in rule 160-4-2-.38 and defined in the GaDOE Resource Manual for Gifted Education Services.

Teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, or other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities may refer a student for consideration for gifted educational services.

The Georgia Board of Education has set two standards of eligibility:

- A student may qualify by meeting a mental ability composite score plus an achievement test requirement, or
- A student may qualify by meeting 3 of the four criteria: mental ability, achievement, creativity, and motivation.

Any student who has met the state eligibility criteria for gifted education services in another Georgia public school system shall be considered eligible to receive gifted education services by the Dawson County School System upon the system's receipt of an eligibility report. A student transferring from a Georgia public school system to a Dawson County School must meet the criteria for continuation of gifted services established by the Dawson County Board of Education. Dawson County Schools shall not recognize gifted eligibility established in another state.

Written consent for testing shall be obtained from parents or guardians of students considered for gifted education services. Parents or guardians also must provide written consent before students determined to be eligible for gifted education services can receive these services. Parents of gifted-eligible students will be notified in writing of the types of services provided, the academic standards to be met, how students will be evaluated, and program continuation criteria annually. Additionally, parents will be notified if their gifted child begins to have difficulties that could result in a probationary period or possibly termination of services. Parents or guardians may schedule a conference to discuss eligibility requirements and service options at any point in this process.

For additional information, please call your child's school or [Dr. Nathan Hand](#), Director of Instructional Support Services, at (706) 265-3246, extension 1041.