

Do I need to nominate my child?

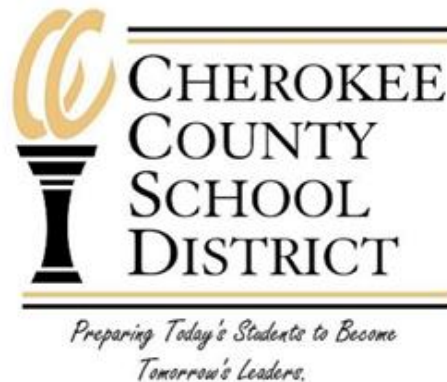
Nominations are not necessary for all rising third and fifth graders as they are tested and screened at these grades. Parents or teachers of rising fourth and sixth grade students who have demonstrated ability or potential for high performance in academic areas may refer such students for screening by completing a referral form available at their school's main office. Students who move into the district after initial testing will be screened automatically. Parents of students who qualify for the program are notified by letter shortly before school starts. Parents of students who do not qualify for the program may appeal by contacting Dr. Andre Dukes at the District Office. An Evaluation/Placement Team will determine if further screening or retesting is indicated.

How are gifted/talented students served?

Third grade students are served one school day each week for more than 125 minutes (the minimum required by the SCDE); fourth and fifth grade students are served one school day each week for more than 200 minutes (the minimum required by the SCDE). These day-long experiences take place at their home school. This special pull-out class day will focus on accelerating ELA and Mathematics through competitions and immerse students in the application of science standards within a historical context. Students in grades six through ten are served in English. The district curriculum is used in these classes. This curriculum is accelerated and enriched and differentiated in levels of abstraction, complexity, pace, breadth, and depth to meet the needs of the student.

For specific information regarding the program in Cherokee County, please contact:

Dr. Andre Dukes,
Executive Director of Academics
864-206-2208



Cherokee County School District One does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs and activities.

State Criteria For Identifying Academically Gifted and Talented Students



Cherokee County School District One

Mission

The mission of gifted education is to maximize the potential of gifted and talented students by providing programs and services that match the unique characteristics and needs of these students. The goals of the Project GOAL program are to develop talent, provide depth of study, set an appropriate pace for instruction, integrate complexity into the curriculum, and allow students to deal with issues of significance.

Who are gifted/talented students?

Gifted and talented students are those who demonstrate high performance ability or potential in academic areas. According to the *National Excellence Report* (1995) they are students: *with outstanding talent who perform or show the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. [They] exhibit high performance capability in intellectual, creative, and/or artistic areas, possess an unusual leadership capacity, or excel in specific academic fields. They require services or activities not ordinarily provided by the schools. Outstanding talents are present in children and youth from all cultural groups, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.*

Why are students identified?

The purposes of the identification process are: (1) to find students who display characteristics of the gifted and talented; (2) to assess the aptitudes and attributes of each student; (3) to evaluate each student for the purposes of placement; and (4) to provide appropriate academic programs and services.

What are some characteristics of gifted and talented students?

- Learn easily and rapidly
- Think clearly, recognize implied relationships, comprehend meanings
- Read on the average two years above grade level
- Retain information without drill
- Possess a large vocabulary
- Exhibit independence, individualism, and self-sufficiency
- Demonstrate a curious nature
- Ask penetrating, searching questions
- Focus intently on areas of interest
- Produce original products or ideas
- Prefer complex ideas

How do students qualify for gifted and talented programs?

Gifted and talented students may be found within any racial, ethnic, or socio-economic group; within any nationality; within both genders; and within populations with disabilities. Identification is a multi-step process, which consists of referral, screening and assessment of eligibility by a district evaluation and placement team. The state of South Carolina has established three dimensions as criteria for placement in the academically gifted program. In order to qualify for placement in gifted and talented programs, students must meet the eligibility criteria in **two** of three dimensions. Students may be eligible for placement on the basis of **aptitude scores alone** if they score at or above the 96th national age percentile on the composite score of a nationally normed aptitude test.

Identification Dimensions

- **Dimension A– Reasoning Abilities**
Students must score at or above the 93rd national age percentile on a nationally normed aptitude test. Students may be eligible for placement on the basis of aptitude scores alone if they score at or above the 96th national age percentile on the composite score of a nationally normed aptitude test.
- **Dimension B– Achievement** Students must score at or above the 94th national age percentile on approved subtests (reading or math) on a nationally normed achievement test or achieve a PASS score (Palmetto Assessment of State Standards) as defined by the state.
- **Dimension C– Academic Performance**
For placement in grades three, four, and five, students must achieve a performance standard on verbal or non-verbal performance tasks. These are only given at specified times during the year as determined by the South Carolina Department of Education. The projected date for administration is March.

Consequently, students who need Dimension C to qualify may be placed as late as second semester. Beginning in grade six, a 3.75 grade point average in the academic disciplines may be used in lieu of the performance tasks.

*No private testing will be accepted for eligibility, but those results may be considered for referral purposes.