

“Gifted and talented students have a right to an appropriate education, one grounded in the recognition of individual differences and unique learning needs.”

-SC Regulation 43-220

Who are the Gifted and Talented Students?

The definition for giftedness is established by the South Carolina Board of Education in Regulation 43-220 GIFTED AND TALENTED.

1. Gifted and talented students are those who are identified ... as demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic ... and therefore require an educational program beyond that normally provided by the general school program in order to achieve their potential.
2. Gifted and talented abilities for these regulations include...Students who have the academic and/or intellectual potential to function at a high level in one or more academic areas.

What are the characteristics of Gifted and Talented students?

- ✓ Learn easily and rapidly.
- ✓ Think clearly, recognize implied relationships, comprehend meanings.
- ✓ Retain what they have read or heard without appearing to need much rote or drill.
- ✓ Read above grade level.
- ✓ Produce original products or styles.

✓ Exhibit independence, individualism, and self-sufficiency.

✓ Ask penetrating, searching questions.

✓ Possess a large vocabulary.

How does a student qualify for Gifted/Talented Programs?

Identification is a multi-step process which consists of referral, screening, and assessment. The state of South Carolina has established three dimensions of giftedness as criteria for placement in the academically gifted program.

In order to qualify for placement in gifted and talented programs, a student must meet the eligibility criteria in two of the three dimensions.

Dimension A – Reasoning Abilities

Students may be eligible for placement on the basis of aptitude scores alone if they score 96th National Age Percentile or higher on the composite score of a nationally- normed aptitude test.

A student is also eligible if he/she scores in the 93rd national age percentile on a nationally normed aptitude test in verbal, non-verbal, quantitative, or composite score.

Dimension B – Achievement

Students may be eligible for placement if they score at the 94th national percentile or higher on approved subtests (reading comprehension and/or mathematical concepts and problem solving), or ‘advanced’ on reading and/or math on the PACT, the South Carolina statewide assessment. MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) scores from the fall administration

with a 94 or higher national percentile in reading and/or math are also acceptable

Dimension C – Academic Performance

The STAR test is administered in March of each year to those students in grades 2-5 who have met either dimensions A or B. The two-day performance tasks test yields a nonverbal and verbal score. Qualifying scores vary per grade level. For placement in grades 7 and above, a 3.75 grade point average in the academic disciplines is required.

How are Gifted/Talented students served?

The following approved program models are used by the district to serve students in grades 3-12:

Gifted and Talented Classroom

Gifted and Talented students receive differentiated instruction and are served daily in a Gifted and Talented classroom. The rigorous and accelerated curriculum involves advanced problem-based interdisciplinary units of study. This model is used primarily at Johnsonville Elementary School for grades 3 and 4.

Special Class

This model, used at the middle and high schools, is organized around one or more of the core academic classes. The special class delivers services to identified students through a rigorous and accelerated curriculum. Honors classes are offered in grades 8 -12 in core academic areas.

Private testing is not accepted for placement in gifted and talented.

Students Transferring into Florence School District Five from other Districts and States

From other Districts in South Carolina:

Students determined eligible for gifted in any district in South Carolina remain eligible in Florence District Five. Proof of eligibility must be submitted to the District Director of Gifted and Talented.

From another State:

Eligibility criteria for gifted education are part of the functional definition for gifted of each state. Therefore, students who transfer from another state may or may not be eligible for gifted in South Carolina. Students from other states may submit recent (within the last two years) nationally normed aptitude and achievement test scores and an official record of recent grades to the District Director of Gifted and Talented. If the tests are acceptable according to Regulation 43-220, the Director will analyze the information for eligibility.

Review of Placement

A student who is identified as gifted in Florence District Five remains identified as gifted until graduation, unless a formal withdrawal is made in writing. Once a student is officially withdrawn from the Gifted and Talented Program, the parents are responsible for notifying the school if they wish for their child to return to the program and receive services. The student

need not be retested to return to the program.

Gifted and Talented Art

Florence District Five offers a gifted and talented art class at Johnsonville Middle School. Referral, screening, and placement is held each spring. The placement process consists of a referral, an interview and a consideration of the student's art portfolio.



If you have questions concerning the gifted and talented program in Florence District Five, please contact:

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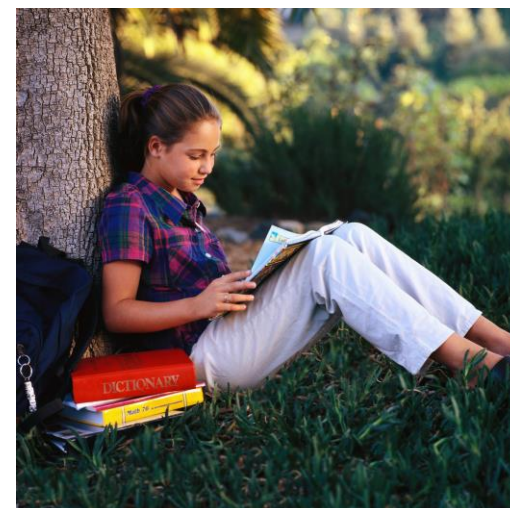
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Florence District Five Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability.

IDENTIFICATION OF ACADEMICALLY AND ARTISTICALLY GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

Florence School District Five



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