

# Advanced Academic Programs

Screening and Identification for  
Full-Time (Level IV) AAP Services for Identified  
Students in Grades 3-8

STUDENTS IN GRADES 2-7 MAY APPLY

Tracey Jenkins  
Advanced Academics Resource Teacher  
tljenkins1@fcps.edu



# Topics

- FCPS Beliefs and FCPS AAP Program Goals
- A Continuum of Services Approach with Multiple Pathways for AAP
- Pathways for Full-time AAP Screening Consideration
- The Local School Role in Full-Time AAP Screening
- Optional Parent Contributions in Full-Time AAP Screening
- The Holistic Screening Process and the Role of Testing
- Communication About Decisions for Full-Time AAP

# Fairfax County Schools (FCPS) Beliefs

- All students deserve an excellent education.
- Students learn best when educators, parents, and students work together.
- High expectations lead to high performance.
- All students need opportunities to use strengths and pursue interests.
- The FCPS AAP continuum of services provides multiple pathways for advanced academics to meet student needs.

# Two Goals of FCPS Advanced Academic Programs

# Two **Goals** of the Advanced Academic Programs

---

FCPS AAP strives to develop the talents of all students and provide challenge through:

- **Talent development**
- **Differentiation** to meet the needs of **advanced learners**.

## Talent Development

What does Talent Development look like in Fairfax County Public Schools?

- Instructional opportunities to use AAP curriculum and strategies.
- Working with students to identify and explore areas of interest.
- Attention to underrepresented groups through the Young Scholars Model.

## **Differentiation to Meet the Needs of Advanced Learners**

### What does Differentiating for Advanced Learners mean in Fairfax County Public Schools?

- Meeting students' needs to go beyond grade level standards by name and need.
- Ensuring access to differentiated curriculum and environment including increased depth and complexity, different pacing, and less scaffolding.
- Ensuring time to work with similar academic peer group to ensure peer-to-peer feedback to promote growth.
- Academic advising and complementary supports for success through implementation of the Young Scholars model.

What services are available during my student's K-12 time in FCPS?



## Advanced Academic Programs Overview

### Young Scholars Model - All K-12 Students

Elementary School: K-6	Middle School	High School
Access to Rigor (Level I)	IB Middle Years Program – Grades 6 -10 (selected schools)	
Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation (Level II)	Honors Courses in areas of Academic Strength/Interest Grades 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honors Courses</li> <li>• Advanced Placement (AP)</li> <li>• International Baccalaureate (IB)</li> <li>• Dual Enrollment Courses</li> <li>• Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</li> </ul>
Part-Time Services (Level III)		
Full-Time Services - Grades 3-8 (Level IV)		

*Adapted from the Integrated Continuum of Special Services by Sally Reis and Levels of Service by Donald Treffinger.*

# QUESTION

## What are Full-Time (Level IV) AAP services?

Some advanced learners need a full-time advanced academic program, including differentiated instruction in all 4 content areas and a different placement in order to have a peer group with similar academic needs.

Students eligible for full-time AAP services receive:

- Advanced Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies curriculum, and
- A high degree of frequency and intensity of differentiation through acceleration, depth, and complexity of content and skills.

How can a student be considered for full-time AAP placement?

# QUESTION

**How can my child be screened for Full-Time AAP services?**

There are three pathways to screening:

1. Family Referral
2. Staff Referral
3. Universal Screener Referral

All referrals result in the student being considered for Full-Time services.

There is no advantage based upon the type of referral source.

# QUESTION

**How do I submit a referral for Full-Time services?**

Families or teachers may submit the **Level IV Referral Form**

Go to [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and search “AAP forms”

Submit the referral form **to the school** by the deadline on the AAP website.

Referral forms and optional materials are due by **December 15**.

# QUESTION

## What is the Grade 2 Universal Screener Referral?

Some students will automatically be screened for Full-Time services based on ability test information. This is called the **Grade 2 Universal Screener Referral**.

There is no advantage in being referred through the Grade 2 Universal Screener Referral pathway.

What does the school do to prepare a screening file for a student who is referred?

# QUESTION

**What will the school do to support the screening process for full-time AAP?**

The **local school committee**, creates the screening file.

The school does not screen the file and make eligibility decisions. All files are screened by a central screening committee.



# QUESTION

**What will the school do to support the screening process?**

The **local school committee** will provide these required items:

- Screening Summary Sheet
- Gifted Behavior Rating Scale with Commentary
- Progress Reports (1 ¼ years)
- Test Data Sheet (FCPS test scores)
- Work Samples (4 minimum, up to 6)

# QUESTION

**What will the school do to support the screening process?**

Gifted Behaviors  
Rating Scale  
(GBRS)

The school-based committee will complete the GBRS to rate **how often** the student demonstrates **exceptional**:

- Ability to Learn
- Application of Knowledge
- Creative/Productive Thinking
- Motivation to Succeed

compared to students of similar age/background/experience. They also write **commentary** with specific examples.

Can I contribute information if my student is referred for full-time AAP?

# QUESTION

**What is the family's role in the screening process?**

Input from the family provides information that schools may not have.

There are several ways families can support the screening process.

# QUESTION

**What is the family's role in the screening process?**

**Referral Form**

Submit the **Full-Time (Level IV) Referral Form** by the deadline on the AAP website

This form is **required** unless the student has a Grade 2 Universal Screener Referral.

It is **helpful** to submit the form if your child has a Grade 2 Universal Screener Referral.

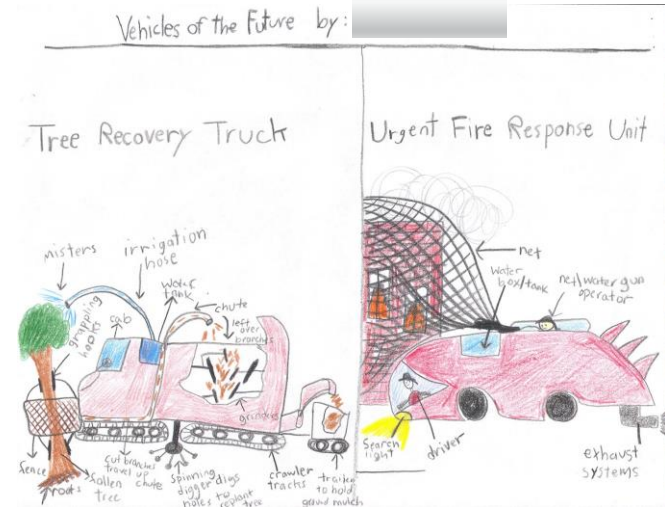
Schools will create the screening file and families may add materials to the file.

# QUESTION

What is the family's role in the screening process?

Work Samples from families are optional. The school will submit 4 work samples.

Families may submit **2 pages** of student work samples.



# QUESTION

## What is the family's role in the screening process?

Work Samples from families are optional. The school will submit 4 work samples.

### Work Samples Guidelines:

- 2 pages maximum
- Single-sided, 8 ½ x 11 pages
- No 3-D, video, or audio samples
- To ensure readability by committee members, it is not advisable to put copy more than one page of work on a single work sample page
- Copies or originals are accepted, but please note they will not be returned

AARTs will accept electronic work samples in the following formats: PDF and image files (e.g. jpg)

# QUESTION

## What is the family's role in the screening process?

Work Samples

Keep in mind this is an academic program. Art samples are accepted, however, **samples from multiple content areas** are most helpful for the screening committee.

The committee looks for **exceptional critical and creative thinking, reasoning, and problem solving** showcased in the student work.



# QUESTION

## What is the family's role in the screening process?

### Parent/Guardian Questionnaire

#### Advanced Academic Programs Parent/Guardian Questionnaire Optional for Advanced Academic Programs Referral

Student Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

Current School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle or highlight how often you notice the following in your child and give an example. Please print clearly or type. Responses must fit on this form.

1. My child surprises me with their knowledge.      Occasionally      Frequently      Consistently

\_\_\_\_\_

2. My child comes up with imaginative and/or unusual ways of doing things.      Occasionally      Frequently      Consistently

\_\_\_\_\_

3. My child is intellectually curious and asks thoughtful questions.      Occasionally      Frequently      Consistently

\_\_\_\_\_

4. My child finds humor in situations or events unusual for their age.      Occasionally      Frequently      Consistently

\_\_\_\_\_

5. My child can focus on a particular topic for an unusually long period of time.      Occasionally      Frequently      Consistently

\_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have a special learning need that you want to communicate to the committee? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, please explain (such as a learning disability, IEP, or 504 Plan). Parents/guardians may submit additional information regarding special learning needs to the school to be included in the screening file.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# QUESTION

## What is the family's role in the screening process?

### Parent/Guardian Questionnaire

Does your child have a special learning need you want the committee to know about?

Families may submit a page of additional information about a student's 2e needs.

4. My child finds humor in situations or events unusual for their age.      Occasionally      Frequently      Consistently

5. My child can focus on a particular topic for an unusually long period of time.      Occasionally      Frequently      Consistently

Does your child have a special learning need that you want to communicate to the committee?

additional information regarding special learning needs to the school to be included in the screening file.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

What role does ability testing play in the holistic screening process?

# QUESTION

## What does holistic screening mean?

Best practices in advanced academic identification include:

- universal screening
- holistic review of multiple data points, and
- use of tools that are inclusive of diverse cultures

Holistic means all of the parts of a file are considered together and none are weighted in decision making.

# QUESTION

**What part does ability testing play in the screening process?**

Ability testing is one of several data points considered in student portfolios.

Ability testing is not weighted more than other items in student portfolios.

Researchers in advanced academics note that relying on quantitative data (test scores) alone for identification is not shown to be valid. (Borland, 2012; Ho, 2018; Moon, 2017; Peters, 2022)

# QUESTION

**How do students get ability test scores?**

## Ability tests:

- Grade 1: Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test (NNAT)
- Grade 2: Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)

Students may be referred through the [Grade 2 Universal Screener Referral](#) based in part on their scores on the Grade 1 NNAT and/or Grade 2 CogAT. These students will be automatically screened.

# QUESTION

**Should I get additional testing for my student?**

Ability or Achievement Test Reports

A parent/guardian may seek private testing through a **state-licensed** clinical psychologist or through **George Mason University (GMU)**.

If testing was not done at GMU, the clinical psychologist's **license number** must be included with the full report.

What happens to the screening portfolio once it goes to the central committee?



# QUESTION

**Can I see what was submitted to the central committee for my student?**

We are happy to provide families a copy of the screening portfolio upon request after the files have been submitted for central selection review.

It is often helpful to see the information that was sent for central committee consideration and see the strengths-based notes and work samples in your student's file.

If you would like a copy, email the AART at your local school to let them know you would like a copy when it is ready.

# QUESTION

## Who decides if the student is eligible for Full-Time services?

Each student file is read by many people who carefully consider whether they see evidence that a different placement is necessary to meet a student's needs for advanced differentiation.

A central screening committee reviews all screening files. Central committee members attend training about how to view files holistically and fairly.

No one person makes an eligibility decision. Each file is read independently by at least 6 committee members.

# QUESTION

**What is the most important document in the screening file?**

All materials are considered by the central selection screening committee

The file is looked at **holistically**. The committee members do not assign more **weight** or **value** to one document over another.

# QUESTION

**How will I know if my student is eligible for a full-time placement?**

An email about the eligibility decision for full-time services will be sent to the email address of the enrolling parent.

The notification will include directions for how to accept placement or defer services.

The school(s) will provide information about orientation dates and times to help parents make decisions.

# QUESTION

**When do eligible students begin full-time AAP services?**

**Spring Screening:** Begin full-time AAP services beginning the next school year.

**Fall Screening** (only available to students who are newly enrolled in FCPS): Begin full-time AAP services second semester

# QUESTION

**Will I get a report if my student is ineligible?**

Parents are notified if their student is ineligible.

The notification includes information about the appeal process if a parent would like to submit additional information for consideration.

Due to the volume of files and the holistic nature of the screening process, there are not individual reports about why a student is ineligible.

# QUESTION

## What does an ineligible decision mean?

In general, an ineligible decision means the committee felt the student had:

- a broad academic peer group and
- a match to AAP curriculum access in school-based opportunities.

It does not mean that a student isn't capable of advanced coursework.

FCPS does believe and expect that all students will engage in a variety of pathways to meet their advanced learning needs.

# QUESTION

**Are ineligibility decisions final?**

Parents/Guardians may appeal the decision.

Information on the appeals process is in the ineligible decision letter.

Students in grades 2-7 may be screened for full-time AAP each school year if a parent would like them to be reconsidered.

Students can also be screened for school-based (subject specific and part-time AAP) services



# QUESTION

**Who can answer questions about the AAP screening process?**

## Elementary Schools:

Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART)

## Middle Schools:

Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART)  
or Director of Student Services

## AAP Website:

Go to [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and search “AAP”

## AAP Office:

Email: [AAP@fcps.edu](mailto:AAP@fcps.edu)

Questions ?



[www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)

