Gifted Services Characteristics and Referral Process

Gifted Services Department
Newport News Public Schools

Bright student or gifted student?

Bright student	Gifted Student
Knows the answers	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is highly curious
Has good ideas	May have wild, silly ideas
Works hard	May play around, yet tests well
Answers the questions	Discusses in detail, elaborates
Is in the top group	Goes beyond the group
Listens with interest	May show strong feelings
Learns with ease	Already knows
Requires 6-8 repetitions for mastery	May require little repetition
Enjoys peers	Prefers adults
Grasps the meaning	Draws inferences
Copies accurately	Creates a new design
Enjoys school	Enjoys learning
Absorbs information	Manipulates information
Is a technician	Is an inventor
Enjoys sequential learning	Thrives on complexity

-J. Szabos

Characteristics to consider when referring a student:

Advanced Language

- Uses descriptive or figurative language; multisyllabic; rich imagery
- Displays verbal skills when teaching others, handling conflicts, or influencing the behaviour of others.
- Expresses similarities and differences
- Uses specific language of a discipline.

Perspective

- Interprets another's point of view
- Creates and interprets more complex shapes, patterns, or graphics than agemates
- Adds interesting components to enhance products

Analytical Thinking

- Demonstrates complex and abstract thinking
- Observes intensely; is unusually attentive to details in their environment
- Takes apart and reassembles ideas, objects or experiences
- Analyzes cause and effect, consequences or alternatives

Characteristics from the Kingore Observation Inventory

Characteristics to consider when referring a student:

Motivation

- Is philosophical; pursues issues atypical of agemates
- Is curious; asks intellectual questions; intense need to understand
- Displays an unexpected depth of knowledge in one or more areas; an "expert"
- Demonstrates intense task commitment and energy when pursuing interests; persistent
- Wants to do things independently

Sense of Humor

- Says or does something indicating a sense of humor beyond agemates
- Catches an adult's subtle or sophisticated humor
- Uses figurative language for humorous effect
- Understands and responds to use of puns and riddles

Characteristics from the Kingore Observation Inventory

Characteristics to consider when referring a student:

Sensitivity

- Exhibits intense concern for human issues
- Shows nonverbal awareness of another's needs and feelings
- Displays a strong sense of fairness and justice
- Expresses high expectations of self and others; senses discord or dissatisfaction
- Overreacts at times

Accelerated Learning

- Requires minimum repetition for mastery
- Increases rate of learning after introduction and exposure
- Categorizes by multiple, often less-obvious, attributes
- Demonstrates an unexpected mastery in one or more subjects.
- Creates advances products

Characteristics from the Kingore Observation Inventory

Gifted Characteristics Checklist for Underrepresented Populations

Verbal Abilities

- expanded vocabulary
- asks unusual questions to find out information
- expresses ideas well
- elaborates on questions for information
- vivid language- clever wit

Learning Characteristics

- exhibits quick mastery of skills
- interest in how things work
- recall of information
- ability to see relationships and make connections, sees patterns
- non-traditional computation
- flexible thinker
- retains information with less repetition
- questioning attitude
- performs well mathematically
- can have perfectionist tendencies
- displays creativeness and originality

-adapted from Project Horizon

Gifted Characteristics Checklist for Underrepresented Populations

Social Abilities and Leadership Skills

- may be a leader among peers
- unusual sense of humor (may be seen as clowning around)
- independent
- often finds and corrects mistakes of others
- can be overly sensitive
- adapts well to new situations
- self-confident in age group
- can either be cooperative with adults and classmates or can be viewed as acting out, impatient, or persistent
- can be viewed if off-task if bored with repetitive tasks
- can exhibit certain behaviors with age/social peers and then different behaviors in the classroom with intellectual peers
- can rationalize actions
- values social relationships and community

-adapted from Project Horizon

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Student Characteristics

- expresses feelings and emotional easily, expressive with gestures, body language
- ability to improvise with materials and objects
- articulate in role-playing, storytelling, rich imagery in formal and informal language
- adheres to traditional family responsibilities, takes pride in language and culture
- prefers collaboration
- asks thoughtful questions, is observant, sees relationships, connections, and “the big picture”
- gives creative, insightful, or unusual responses
- receiving ELL services, but is learning English very quickly

Grade	Assessment	Referral Window	Testing Window
Transfer, military dependent, and new to the system students	NNAT and/or OLSAT	Upon arrival	Testing as soon as referred
2nd grade universal screening	NNAT	N/A	October 7-18, 2024
5th grade referred students	NNAT	September 16-23, 2024	October 7-18, 2024
2nd and 5th OLSAT screening for qualified students	OLSAT	N/A	November 18-26, 2024
9th and 10th grade (SRGS) referred students	NNAT, OLSAT and/or Stanford	November 15, 2024-December 13, 2024	January 6-10, 2025
3rd and 4th grade referred students	NNAT and OLSAT	January 7-14, 2025	February 3-13, 2025
6th-11th grade referred students	NNAT and OLSAT	February 3-10, 2025	March 4-14, 2025
Kindergarten and 1st grade referred students	NNAT	March 3-7, 2025	April 16-25, 2025

2024-2025 Gifted Services Referral and Testing Windows

- Referrals should be sent to Ange Moore at ange.moore@nn.k12.va.us . You can use the referral form Ange will email you or you can submit the KOI observation form.

- Questions should be referred Dr. Kimberly Beckerdite to the Department of Gifted Services at 757-591-4566 or kimberly.beckerdite@nn.k12.va.us