

# SC Gifted and Talented Programs

## Qualification Criteria

South Carolina's gifted and talented programs are established by SC [Regulation 43-220](#) and guided by the [SC Department of Education](#).

All students enrolled in a South Carolina public school participate in universal gifted and talented (GT) screening in Grade 2 via the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and Iowa Assessment (IA). The CogAT measures natural aptitude and reasoning while the Iowa Assessment measures achievement in reading and math. Both assessments are nationally normed and are used to provide **initial** data for GT qualification; students have [additional opportunities](#) to qualify for GT services in Grades 3-12. Students must meet criteria to qualify for gifted services via Option 1 or Option 2 as described in the chart below:

SC Gifted and Talented Identification Criteria																								
Qualification	Dimension A: Aptitude	Dimension B: Achievement	Dimension C: Performance																					
<b>Option 1:</b>  <b>GT-96</b>	A composite score of <b>96% APR* or greater</b> from a SDE* approved full-scale aptitude assessment.	Not required	Not required																					
<b>Option 2:</b>  <i>A qualifying score in <u>two different</u> dimensions (A, B, or C).</i>  <b>GT-AB</b> <b>GT-AC</b> <b>GT-BC</b>	A score of <b>93% APR* or greater</b> on <u>one</u> of the following batteries on a SDE* approved aptitude assessment:  <i>Composite VQN, Verbal, Nonverbal, or Quantitative</i>  <b>SC Approved Assessments:</b>  <b>Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)</b> or other <u>national</u> aptitude assessment on SDE* approved list.	A score of <b>94% NPR* or greater</b> on <u>one</u> of the following sections on a SDE* approved achievement assessment:  <i>Reading Comprehension or Total Math</i>  <b>SC Approved Assessments:</b>  <b>Iowa Assessments, NWEA MAP, or</b> other <u>national</u> achievement assessment on SDE* approved list.  <b>SC Ready</b> is approved but uses GT cut scores set annually by the SDE*.  <b>2025 GT Cut Scores</b> <table><tr><th>GR</th><th>ELA</th><th>Math</th></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>645</td><td>626</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>723</td><td>667</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>710</td><td>685</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>738</td><td>681</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>724</td><td>691</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>746</td><td>716</td></tr></table>	GR	ELA	Math	3	645	626	4	723	667	5	710	685	6	738	681	7	724	691	8	746	716	Performance is evaluated only when Dimension A or B criteria has been met.  <b>SC Approved Measures:</b>  <b>Elementary - SC Performance Tasks</b>  Grade 2: <b>16/20</b> in Verbal or Nonverbal Grade 3: <b>18/20</b> in Verbal or Nonverbal Grade 4: <b>16/20</b> in Verbal or <b>22/28</b> in Nonverbal Grade 5: <b>18/20</b> in Verbal or <b>25/28</b> in Nonverbal  <b>Secondary - Core GPA</b>  Beginning in Grade 6, the previous year's end-of-year unweighted GPA of <b>3.75 or greater</b> in the four <u>core</u> subjects is used. This equates to <b>four A's or three A's/one B</b> in ELA, math, science, and social studies.
GR	ELA	Math																						
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	<i>Aptitude scores are valid for 5 years</i>	<i>Achievement scores are valid for 2 years.</i>	<i>Performance scores are valid for 1 year.</i>																					

### Additional Information:

- Private testing conducted outside of a school system is **not** accepted to identify and place students in SC GT programs.
- Assessment scores taken prior to Grade 2 are **not** accepted to identify and place students in SC GT programs.
- Students who participated in gifted classes in another state must meet the SC GT criteria unless they have **documentation of GT identification** from one of the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, or DoDEA.
- Parental overrides or waivers for enrollment in GT classes are **not** accepted; students must meet the SC GT criteria to qualify for gifted services.

\* SDE = SC State Department of Education, APR = Age Percentile Rank, GPR = Grade Percentile Rank, NPR = National Percentile Rank

### GCS Gifted and Talented Service Models

**Grades 3-5:** Served via an interdisciplinary pull-out class, *Challenge*, in Grade 3 for 125 minutes/week and Grades 4-5 for 200 minutes/week.

**Grades 6-8:** Served via special classes in English Language Arts - English 6 GT, English 7 GT, and Grade 8 English 1 Honors.

**Grades 9-12:** Served via special honors level courses. *Honors courses are part of the GT continuum of services, but non-GT qualified students may opt into honors courses in high school based on prerequisite grades, achievement assessment scores, and teacher recommendation.*