

**Academically/
Intellectually Gifted
Program Services**

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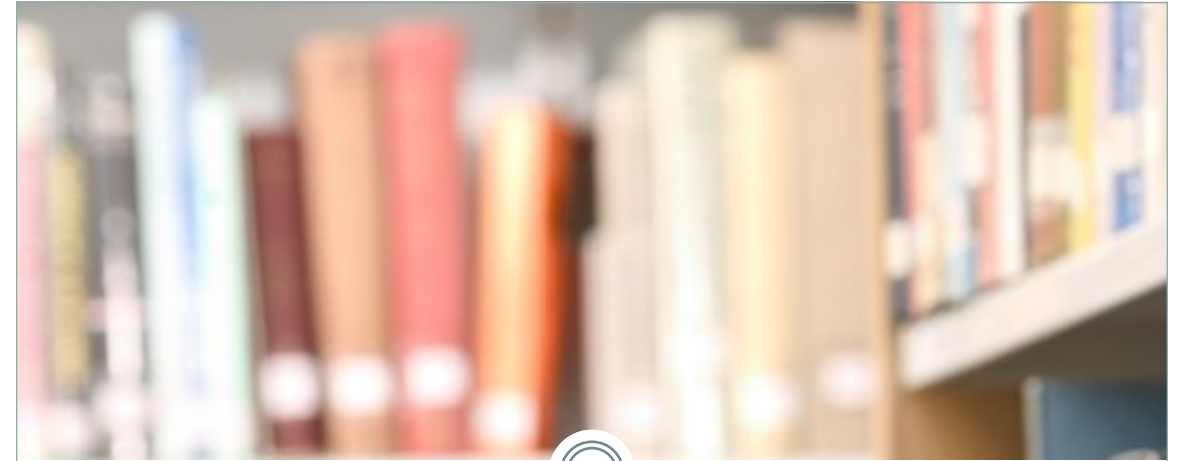


**STATE DEFINITION OF AIG STUDENTS,
ARTICLE 9B (N.C.G.S. § 115C-150.5)**

Academically or intellectually gifted (AIG) students perform or show the potential to perform at substantially high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experiences or environment. Academically or intellectually gifted students exhibit high performance capability in intellectual areas, specific academic fields, or in both the intellectual areas and specific academic fields. Academically or intellectually gifted students require differentiated educational services beyond those ordinarily provided by the regular educational program. Outstanding abilities are present in students from all cultural groups, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

**BCS Academically/
Intellectually Gifted
Program Services
Vision Statement**

*Advanced learners in
Buncombe County Schools
will be challenged with
academic rigor,
empowered by collective
advocacy, supported via
collaborative systems, and
engaged in problem-based
critical thinking.*



**Exciting New Ideas for Improving AIG
Services in Buncombe County Schools**

We are thrilled to share some exciting new proposals that are being presented in the BCS AIG Plan for 2019-2022. As always, we continue to strive for constant improvement in instructional rigor and responsive service to our students, families, schools, and communities.

The most recent NC AIG Program Standards were approved in July 2018 by the State Board of Education for the development of local AIG plans. This honors local context and supports each LEA to do what is best for its own AIG student population.

Buncombe County Schools plan is designed to be an effective, comprehensive response to our students' advanced learning needs.



QUICKER ACCESS TO SERVICE TIME FOR ADVANCED LEARNING THIRD GRADERS

Feedback from parents demonstrated a need for us to improve time and support for 3rd grade students so they could receive **MORE** service time **SOONER** in the school year. Our stakeholders have also expressed concern over the amount of time our students are spending with standardized assessments.

The plan to meet these needs includes a great exciting **new** program called *Talent Development*. The *Talent Development Program* is for 3rd graders and begins at the start of the academic school year. AIG Specialists and classroom teachers from both 2nd and 3rd grades will use classwork and assessments to identify advanced learners who need additional challenge and rigor to grow. Talent Development students will receive weekly pullout services and engage with academic enrichments and extensions that nurture the student's need for complex and abstract thinking.

This change will mean that formal identification will occur at the very beginning of 4th grade. CoGAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) screening will now happen in the spring of 3rd grade, and standardized data collected via EOG testing will eliminate much of the need for additional assessments. Identification standards do not change. **No services are lost or diminished, and more learners have the access they need to early support.**

SCHOOL CONNECTIONS FOR ADVANCED LEARNING EXCELLENCE (SCALE) TEAMS

Our school-based AIG identification teams are being broadened in order to better meet the needs of our individual school communities. Under the new plan, AIG Specialists will lead SCALE Teams to:

- Make decisions about AIG identification cases
- Govern advanced learning initiatives on campus
- Ensure campus-wide enrichment opportunities for students
- Advocate for needs of all high achievers

Teachers and administrators will continue to work collaboratively to build supports for our students!

GLOSSARY AND APPENDIX ITEMS FOR CLARIFICATION

Nobody loves an acronym quite like those in the field of education. With DEP, MTSS, AIG, AM, IHE, and others flying around in our conversations, we want to provide all stakeholders with a better understanding of how every term, document, and system works together to support our advanced learners in Buncombe County. Our glossary of terms will clarify common terms and acronyms used both in our plan and our instructional practice.

To view the NC AIG Program Standards, please click the following link:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/advancedlearning/aig/standards/>