

# FAQ for Gifted Identification 2021-2022



In the Spring of 2022, a referral window will open for students in all grade levels to begin the gifted identification process. In order to initiate the gifted identification process, a student must be referred by a staff member, parent/guardian, community member, or self during the referral window. For specific dates regarding this process, please refer to the timeline below. A set of Frequently Asked Questions follows for your reference. Please see our Parent/Guardian Spring Gifted Identification video for details about the timeline and key points (this video will be posted by November 22nd). If you have questions about specific services or programs, links are included in the table below. For any other questions, contact your school's Gifted Identification Coordinator using the linked contact list.

[Contact List: HCPS Gifted Identification Coordinators](#)

[HCPS Gifted Programs Page](#)

	<b>SCHOOL BASED AND ZONE CENTERS</b>			<b>Governor's Schools Programs</b>	<b>HENRICO COUNTY SPECIALTY CENTERS</b>
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## Gifted Identification Process: 2021-2022 School Year Timeline

<b>January 3, 2021 - January 14, 2022</b>	<b>Referral Window for Grades K-12</b> Gifted Identification Coordinators & Gifted Resource Teachers will host virtual Parent/Guardian Referral Information Sessions between November 8-19. <i>*For information about initiating a referral for gifted identification, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions section below*</i>
<b>January 24, 2022</b>	<u>Gifted Identification paperwork will be sent home</u> to families of referred students
<b>February 3, 2022</b>	<u>Gifted Identification paperwork is due back</u> to individual schools
<b>April 19, 2022</b>	<u>Results will be mailed home</u> to families from individual schools

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**Henrico County Gifted Website Link**



## Gifted Identification Process: 2021-22 School Year - Frequently Asked Questions

### **How do I initiate a referral for the gifted identification process for my child?**

Referrals must be received in writing to an individual school's Gifted Identification Coordinator (GIC) during the specified referral window. [You can find your school's GIC here](#). Students can be referred in General Intellectual Aptitude, Specific Aptitude Language Arts, or Specific Aptitude Math.

### **What type of testing is required for the gifted identification process?**

The Virginia Department of Education requires that a nationally normed test be on file for all students in the gifted identification process. Many nationally normed tests remain valid for multiple years. All HCPS second grade students will participate in ability testing through the universal screener administered annually. For students that are referred for gifted identification that do not have a valid test score, ability testing will be given on an as-needed basis. For students without test scores within the validity range, arrangements will be made for students to test in school buildings if the parent/guardian gives permission.

### **If my second grader participated in the universal screener in November, do I still have to formally refer my child for the gifted identification process?**

Yes, in order to go through the gifted identification process, a parent/guardian, teacher, community member, or student must initiate the referral. Currently, all students are universally screened with an ability assessment in the fall of second grade. This year, third grade students who were opted out of the assessment last year will also be included in this screening.

### **My child is attending Henrico Virtual Academy (HVA) or Virtual Virginia (VV). How will testing and other evidence be collected?**

Due to the VDOE requirement listed above, students participating in virtual schooling will have to make appointments with school staff to test in a school building. Other students that need testing will receive additional information and dates from their individual schools. If parent/guardian(s) of referred students opt out of in-person testing this spring, testing and any other additional evidence needed to complete the gifted identification process on your child will be collected in the fall of 2022.

The additional evidence needed for the identification process can be collected in a virtual setting.

*\*If your student attends VV, teacher scale information will need to be collected upon return to a Henrico classroom.*

### **If my student is identified, when will services start?**

Students will begin working with a Gifted Resource teacher in small groups at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. Gifted Resource teachers will collaborate with classroom teachers following the close of the 21-22 identification to assist with differentiation in the classroom for students identified to receive gifted services.

### **If my student isn't identified, can he/she go through the process again?**

Students may go through the process once in an academic year, therefore the referral window will open during the 22-23 school year.

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## **What other types of evidence will be collected during this process?**

A portfolio of information is collected on each student in the gifted identification process. The portfolio includes the following:

- Standardized Testing Information
- Parent/Guardian Questionnaire
- Teacher Scale
- Grades
- Performance Task

Portfolios are reviewed holistically by Identification/Placement Teams at each school to determine eligibility for services. In order to qualify for services, students must have four supportive pieces of evidence in the area of referral.

## **I'm interested in my child attending one of the elementary gifted zone centers in fourth or fifth grade, how do I know if my child is eligible?**

In HCPS, students that are identified in General Intellect (both Language Arts and math) have the opportunity to attend a gifted zone center for fourth and fifth grade. To find your child's gifted zone center, please consult this [document](#). Please note that if your child is currently identified in Specific Aptitude Math or Specific Aptitude Language, they need to enter the 21-22 gifted identification process in order to potentially meet eligibility requirements for these centers.

## **I'm interested in my child attending the Gifted Young Scholars Academy (GYSA) at Wilder Middle School next year. How can I make sure my child is eligible?**

The application process for GYSA begins in the fall of a student's fifth grade year. In order to be eligible for this program, students must be identified in General Intellect (both Language Arts and math) by the end of their fourth grade year.

## **What gifted services are offered at the secondary level?**

In middle school, gifted students take a gifted enrichment elective. This is a requirement for all sixth grade identified students and becomes an optional elective in seventh and eighth grade. Students may also have the option to attend the Gifted Young Scholars Academy (GYSA) at Wilder Middle School. This is a middle school gifted zone center for students identified in gifted intellectual aptitude. Applications are accepted in a student's fifth grade year. At the high school level, all 8th grade students may apply to Henrico's specialty centers and access advanced course offerings including Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and honors courses that provide advanced challenges in all core content areas. Additionally, HCPS participates in two regional high schools.

**For additional information about gifted programming and services in Henrico County Public Schools, please visit the: [HCPS Gifted Programs Office website](#)**