

**Brief Overview and Chart of Updated Talented and Gifted (TAG)
Screening Procedures for 2020-2021 School Year**

In the Fall of 2020, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) adapted the gifted identification procedures for this school year because the universal screener of nationally normed, in-person ability testing was not an option at the beginning of the year. Instead of testing, teachers created a work-sample portfolio for all students in the 1st and 3rd grades. These portfolios include samples of the student work that both the teachers and students selected to showcase the student's strengths. The work samples were screened throughout the early Spring to determine if a more detailed portfolio was needed.

At the end of April 2021, the Talented and Gifted (TAG) screening committee looked over the data from the portfolios, and it has been determined that we need additional information to complete the screening. This additional information includes testing, but with the limited timeframe, multiple test windows open, and resources, we have been required to update screening for this year. Below is a chart outlining the final screening procedures for this year. Please note, the only changes occur in the 1st and 3rd grades.

Grade Level	Students Referred by Parents/Staff	Universal Screeners for All Students	Testing for Next Year	Notice of Eligibility
Kindergarten	Will receive the NNAT before 6/23/21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable to this grade level. 	All rising 1 st graders will receive the NNAT in Fall 2021.	End-of July 2021
1 st Grade	Will receive the NNAT before 6/23/21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The universal screening is paused until additional information can be collected. <u>Only students referred</u> will be tested and screened. All students will go through universal screening in 2nd grade during the 1st quarter of the 2021-2022 school year. 	All rising 2 nd graders will receive the NNAT in Fall 2021.	End-of July 2021
2 nd Grade	Will receive the NNAT before 6/23/21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable to this grade level. 	All rising 3 rd graders will receive the CogAT in Fall 2021.	End-of July 2021
3 rd Grade	Will receive the CogAT before 6/23/21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 3rd-grade CogAT testing is paused, except for students who were referred by January 28, 2021. Oversight Committee Process: <u>Regardless</u> of taking the CogAT test, <u>all 3rd-grade students</u> will go through an oversight committee for SAA Language Arts and Math services. The committee will review information from previous ability test scores, new achievement test scores, gifted rating scale scores, and report card grades. 	All rising 4 th graders will receive the CogAT in Fall 2021.	Mid-July 2021
4 th -8 th Grade	Will receive the CogAT (Grades 4-5) or NNAT (Grades 6-8) before 6/23/21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable to this grade level. 		Mid-July 2021

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We thank you for your flexibility as we work through this school year. Our ultimate goal is to provide the best services to children. As a result, we had to reexamine our screening procedures this year to ensure we have the most robust data to determine service eligibility for students. We will notify parents of any eligibility decisions by the end of July. If your child is not found eligible, we welcome you to refer your child in the Fall.

Sincerely,
Megan Tempel-Milner, Ph.D.
Director of Gifted and Advanced Academics Services