

# Advanced Academic Programs

Screening and Identification for  
Level IV (Full-Time) AAP Services for Students in  
Grades 3-8

STUDENTS IN GRADES 2-7 MAY APPLY

Stenwood Elementary School

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Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART)



# COVID-19 Critical Updates for Screening

## AAP Level IV Screening Updates for 2020-21 School Year

- Due to the ongoing pandemic, there are some adjustments to the Advanced Academic Programs (AAP) Level IV screening processes for the 2020-21 school year.
- Additional information about the screening process will be shared through local school newsletters. Local schools will also communicate opportunities for parent information sessions on the AAP continuum of services and the screening processes for AAP Levels II-IV.

# Testing Updates – Due to COVID-19

- The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) will not be offered this school year. The CogAT test requires multiple sessions and it is not possible to do safely.
- The one-time retest option for the Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test (NNAT) or CogAT test will not be available this school year. School resources are limited and there is not capacity to offer retests safely.
- There will be a process for students without an abilities test on file to take the NNAT in December 2020. Local schools will determine which students require the NNAT and will reach out to families to schedule safe and socially distanced testing.

**Note:** While private testing that follows guidelines may be submitted, testing is only one type of data considered. All ability tests are considered within the larger context of the overall screening portfolio. FCPS does not encourage families to seek additional testing beyond what FCPS provides to all students.

## Timeline for Submitting an AAP Level IV Referral (Sept 8-Dec 1)

- Referrals for AAP Level IV screening will be collected between September 8 through December 1, 2020. Due to not being able to have substitutes to help during teacher input and file creation, schools will need additional time to create files. Additionally, the January date was driven largely by the CogAT results, which are not part of screening this school year.
- **Referral forms** are emailed to the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART) and principal at the local school. The email will count as a digital signature for the referral.

**Note: Referrals will not be accepted past December 1, 2020\***. A deadline of December 1, 2020 gives local schools time to organize and submit screening portfolios to the central office. ***\*This is a hard deadline.***

## Parent Input

- A **referral form** is **required** for any student (grades 2-7) whose parent would like them screened for full-time services but is not in the 2nd grade screening pool.
- Parents will be notified by the local school if their second-grade student is in the pool by **November 1, 2020**.
- Parents whose child is in the pool may submit the referral form but are not required.

# Parent Input

## Optional

Parents may submit:

- the [Parent/Guardian Questionnaire](#)
- **up to** four pages of student work samples

These optional materials should be submitted to the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher at the local school when submitting the referral form.

**Discontinued due to COVID and the need to create digital screening files:**

Awards, certificates, and letters of recommendation **will not be part of screening files.**

## Advanced Academic Programs for our students

### Young Scholars Program - All K-12 Students

Elementary School: K-6	Middle School	High School
Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies (I)	IB Middle Years Program – Grades 6 -10 (selected schools)	
Differentiated Lessons in areas of Academic Strength (II)	Honors Courses in areas of Academic Strength/Interest Grades 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honors Courses</li> <li>• Advanced Placement</li> <li>• International Baccalaureate</li> <li>• Dual Enrollment Courses</li> <li>• Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</li> </ul>
Part-Time Advanced Academic Program (III)		
Full-Time Advanced Academic Program (IV) - Grades 3-8		

*Adapted from the Integrated Continuum of Special Services by Sally Reis and Levels of Service by Donald Treffinger.*

# QUESTION

## What are Full-Time (Level IV) AAP services?

FCPS believes it is important for all students to have access to AAP strategies and curriculum, which is available in Level I services. Some learners may need a different placement to have access to a full-time program with a different pace and different intensity of access.

Full-time services provide a **differentiated curriculum to students in Language Arts, social studies, science, and mathematics** on a full-time basis. Mathematics instruction is at least one year above grade level.



# QUESTION

**How can my child be screened for full-time AAP services?**

Families or teachers may submit the **Level IV Referral Form**

Go to [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and search “AAP forms”

Email the referral form **to the AART and principal** by the deadline on the AAP website.

# QUESTION

**How can my child be screened for full-time AAP services?**

## Grade 2 Screening Pool

Some students are automatically screened based on ability test scores.

These students are in the **Grade 2 “screening pool”**.

# QUESTION

**How do students get ability test scores?**

## Ability tests:

- Grade 1: Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test (NNAT)

Students may be included in the **Grade 2 screening “pool”** based on their scores on the Grade 1 NNAT. These students will be automatically screened.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, FCPS will not administer the Grade 2 CogAT in 2020-2021.

# QUESTION

**What is the family's role in the screening process?**

Input from the family provides information that schools may not have.

There are several ways families can support the screening process.

# QUESTION

**What is the family's role in the screening process?**

Submit the **Level IV Referral Form** by the deadline on the AAP website

This form is **required** if the student is not in the Grade 2 screening pool.

It is **helpful** to submit the form if your child is in the Grade 2 screening pool.

Schools will create the screening file and families may add materials to the file.

# QUESTION

What is the family's role in the screening process?

## Parent/Guardian Questionnaire

Fairfax County Public Schools  
**Parent/Guardian Questionnaire**  
*OPTIONAL for AAP Referral*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Current School \_\_\_\_\_ School Year \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly or type; responses may be pasted onto form. Questionnaire may not be edited or retyped and responses must fit on this form. Five pages of additional information may be submitted according to the published guidelines.

Check the appropriate box: **occasionally, frequently, or consistently.** Give an example for each.

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<small>occasionally</small>	<small>frequently</small>	<small>consistently</small>
My child surprises me with their knowledge.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text" value="How? When? Tell us all about it!"/>			
My child comes up with imaginative and/or unusual ways of doing things.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text" value="How? When? Tell us all about it!"/>			
My child is intellectually curious and asks thoughtful questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text" value="How? When? Tell us all about it!"/>			
My child finds humor in situations or events unusual for their age.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text" value="How? When? Tell us all about it!"/>			
My child can focus on a particular topic for an unusually long period of time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text" value="How? When? Tell us all about it!"/>			

Does your child have a special need that you want to communicate to the committee?  NO  YES  
If YES, please explain (such as learning disability). Additional information may also be submitted as part of the five pages.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# QUESTION

What is the family's role in the screening process?

## Parent/Guardian Questionnaire: Information about Special Needs

Fairfax County Public Schools  
**Parent/Guardian Questionnaire**  
*OPTIONAL for AAP Referral*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Current School \_\_\_\_\_ School Year \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly or type; responses may be pasted onto form. Questionnaire may not be edited or retyped and responses must fit on this form. Five pages of additional information may be submitted according to the published guidelines.

Check the appropriate box: **occasionally, frequently, or consistently.**

Give an **example for each.**

	occasionally	frequently	consistently
My child surprises me with their knowledge.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My child comes up with imaginative and/or unusual ways of doing things.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My child is intellectually curious and asks thoughtful questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My child finds humor in situations or events unusual for their age.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My child can focus on a particular topic for an unusually long period of time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Does your child have a special need that you want to communicate to the committee?  
If YES, please explain (such as learning disability). Additional information may also be submitted as part of the five pages.

NO  YES

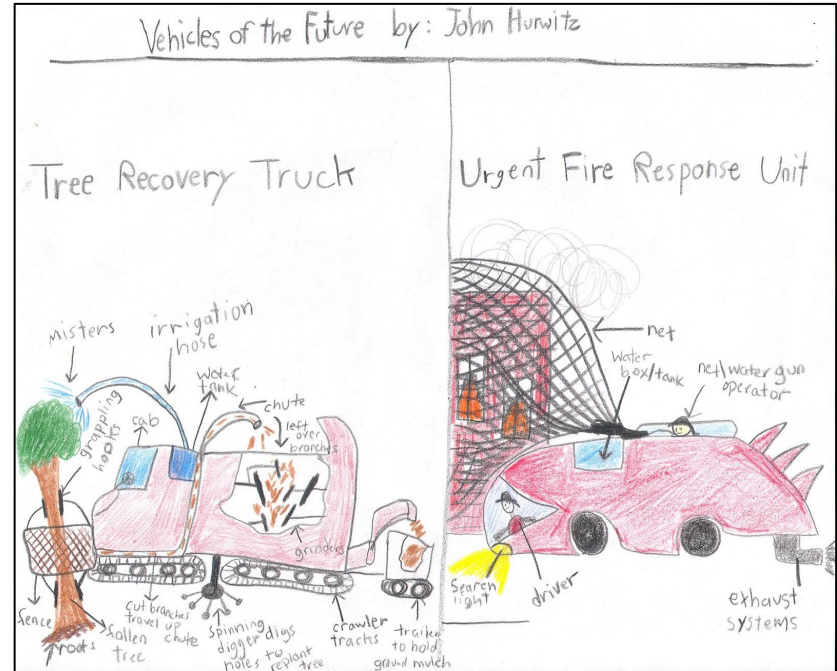
Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Does your child have a special need you want the committee to know about?  
Parents may submit a page of additional information about a student's 2e needs.**

# QUESTION

What is the family's role in the screening process?

## Work Samples (up to 4 pages) *optional*





# QUESTION

**What is the family's role in the screening process?**

## Work Sample Guidelines:

- 4 pages maximum
- Single-sided, 8 ½ x 11 pages
- No 3-D, no electronic samples
- Multiple pages may be copied to one page
- Copies or originals are accepted (Samples will not be returned)

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, AARTs will accept work samples in the following formats:  
PDF, Word, and jpg/png

# QUESTION

**What is the family's role in the screening process?**

## Work Sample Tips:

- Attach a small label or insert a text box describing the activity to point out what you would like the committee to notice
- Make sure it is legible!
- Include your child's name and grade level on each page

# QUESTION

**What is the family's role in the screening process?**

Keep in mind this is an academic program. Art samples are accepted, however, **samples from multiple content areas** are most helpful for the screening committee.

The committee will be looking for evidence of **exceptional critical and creative thinking, reasoning, and problem solving** showcased in the student work samples.

# QUESTION

**What is the family's role in the screening process?**

## Ability or Achievement Test Reports

A parent/guardian may seek private testing through a state-licensed clinical psychologist or through **George Mason University (GMU)**.

If testing was not done at GMU, a copy of the clinical psychologist's license must be included with the full report.

# QUESTION

**What is the family's role in the screening process?**

~~Awards, Certificates & Letters of Commendation  
(up to 5 pages)~~

~~Note: FCPS Staff may not write letters of commendation.~~

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, FCPS will not collect awards and letters of commendation during 2020-2021 screening cycles.

# QUESTION

**What will the school do to support the screening process?**

The **local school committee**, creates the screening file.

The school does not screen the file and make eligibility decisions. All files are screened by a central screening committee.

# QUESTION

**What will the school do to support the screening process?**

The **local school committee** will provide these required items:

- Screening Summary Sheet
- Gifted Behavior Rating Scale with Commentary
- Progress Reports (1 ¼ years)
- Test Data Sheet (FCPS test scores)
- Work Samples (up to 6 total)

# QUESTION

**What will the school do to support the screening process?**

## The Gifted Behavior Rating Scale (GBRS) with Commentary

The school-based committee will complete the GBRS to rate **how often** the student demonstrates **exceptional**:

- Ability to Learn
- Application of Knowledge
- Creative/Productive Thinking
- Motivation to Succeed

compared to students of similar age/background/experience. They also write **commentary** with specific examples.



# QUESTION

**Who decides if the student is eligible for full-time services?**

A central screening committee reviews all screening files.

Central committee members attend training about how to view files holistically and fairly.

Each file is read independently by at least 6 committee members.

# QUESTION

**Who is on the central screening committee?**

The central selection screening committee is made up of FCPS staff with diverse roles such as:

- Classroom teachers
- AARTs
- Specialists
- School administrators
- School counselors
- School psychologists
- Central office staff

# QUESTION

**What is the most important document in the screening file?**

All materials are considered by the central selection screening committee

The file is looked at **holistically**. The committee members do not assign more **weight** or **value** to one document over another.

# QUESTION

**Are eligibility  
decisions final?**

Parents/Guardians may **appeal** the decision.

Information on the appeals process is in the ineligible decision letter.

Students in grades 2-7 may be screened for Level IV screening each school year.

# QUESTION

**When do eligible students begin full-time AAP services?**

**Spring Screening:** Begin full-time AAP services beginning the next school year.

**Fall Screening** (only available to students who are new to FCPS): Begin full-time AAP services second semester of this school year.

# QUESTION

**Who can answer questions about the AAP screening process?**

## Elementary Schools:

Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART)

## Middle Schools:

Director of Student Services

## AAP Website:

Go to [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and search “AAP”

## AAP Office:

Email: [AAP@fcps.edu](mailto:AAP@fcps.edu)



Please feel free to contact me  
with any specific questions you may have!

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[www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)