

Advanced Academic Programs (AAP) Elementary Continuum of Services

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is committed to challenging all students through talent development efforts and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of advanced learners.

FCPS offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in Grades K-12. The continuum of services approach recognizes unique student needs and focuses on matching services, not labeling students. Through the continuum, students have:

- Multiple entry points for deeper learning opportunities in specific areas of need as they develop.
- A cluster group of students with similar academic needs to continue growing in their learning.

Teachers, Advanced Academic Resource Teachers (AARTs), and school administrators work together to provide the following levels of service at the elementary level:

Access to Rigor, Grades K-6

All students have opportunities to think critically, reason, and problem-solve.

- All teachers use critical and creative thinking strategies in their lessons.
- Classroom teachers provide opportunities using materials from the AAP Curriculum Framework a minimum of once per quarter.

Because Access to Rigor is for all FCPS students, there is not a screening process.

Subject-Specific Services, Grades K-6

Some students are strong in a specific subject area. Classroom teachers may adjust instruction for students by:

- Providing different assignments and resources in those subjects,
- Grouping students by their strengths, interests, and readiness, and
- Providing additional challenges using materials from the AAP Curriculum Framework.

Student needs for subject specific differentiation are re-evaluated each year at the local school.

Part-Time Services, Grades 3-6

Some students have advanced academic needs in multiple subject areas in addition to specific subject differentiation. They need Part-Time AAP services.

- Students work with other students that have similar academic needs through weekly pull-out classes or weekly co-taught lessons with the AART and classroom teacher.
- Teachers provide frequent opportunities to use materials from the AAP Curriculum Framework in Language Arts, science, social studies, and/or mathematics.

Part-Time services continue through Grade 6. Students do not need to be evaluated each year.

Full-Time Services, Grades 3-8

Some advanced learners need a Full-Time advanced academic program with differentiated instruction in all four core content areas (Language Arts, mathematics, social studies, and science).

Students eligible for Full-Time AAP services are cluster grouped and receive:

- Full-Time use of materials from the AAP Curriculum Framework in Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, and
- Curriculum that is differentiated through acceleration, depth, and complexity of content.

Full-Time services continue through Grade 8. Students do not need to be evaluated each year.

Screening Procedures for Students New to FCPS Boundaries

Screening for Full-Time Advanced Academic Services

NOTE: This process is for families physically moving into Fairfax County boundaries from out of district.

Step 1

Complete the student registration process for your local school. No student may be considered until they are registered in FCPS with a student ID number.

Step 2

Put together a file with the following information. Please make copies as the materials will not be returned.

Required

- FCPS Student ID Number
- Report cards for the two previous years
- At least one nationally normed ability test. *Test results need to be reported in ability index format as well as percentile. See the FCPS AAP site for a complete list of ability tests.*
 - Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)
 - Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3)
 - Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC V)

Optional

- Achievement test results
- Record of previous advanced academic or gifted services
- Five pages of student work samples

For more information, please visit the AAP website at:

<https://www.fcps.edu/registration/advanced-academics-identification-and-placement/students-new-fcps>

During the Summer (Beginning June 18, 2026):

- Submit your paperwork to the AAP Office for screening:
 1. Scan the paperwork
 2. Email the paperwork to aap@fcps.edu
 3. In the subject line write your student's ID number and Summer Placement (e.g., 1000007 Summer Placement)

The last day to email a file to be processed in time for the first day of school is **August 3, 2026**.

Screening for Military Families or Students of Certain Government Employees

If you are a military family, a foreign service employee, or civilian member of the Armed Forces of the United States under federal orders moving to the area, please follow the directions found on the Advanced Academic Programs Identification and Placement for Military Families web page:

<https://www.fcps.edu/node/47221>

Questions? Contact the AAP Office

Phone: 571-423-4740

Email: AAP@fcps.edu

Revised April 2026