



Advanced Academic Services (AAS) Screening Overview: Portfolio Screening for Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) Services in Grades 3-5

Fall 2024





WELCOMING

Office of Advanced Academic Services

Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner,
Advanced Academic Services (K-12), Director
megan.tempel-milner@acps.k12.va.us

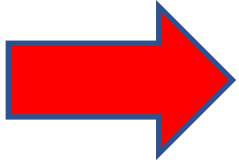
Ms. Mashari Whitfield,
Advanced Academic Services, Elementary Instructional Specialist
mashari.whitfield@acps.k12.va.us

Ms. Rushel Grillo,
Advanced Academic Services, Secondary Instructional Specialist
rushel.grillo@acps.k12.va.us



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Essential Questions



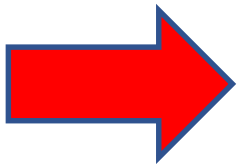
What are Advanced Academic Services in ACPS?



How does ACPS screen and identify students for GIA in Grades K-3?



How does ACPS screen and identify students for SAA in Grades 6-8?



How does ACPS screen and identify students for SAA in Grades 3-5?

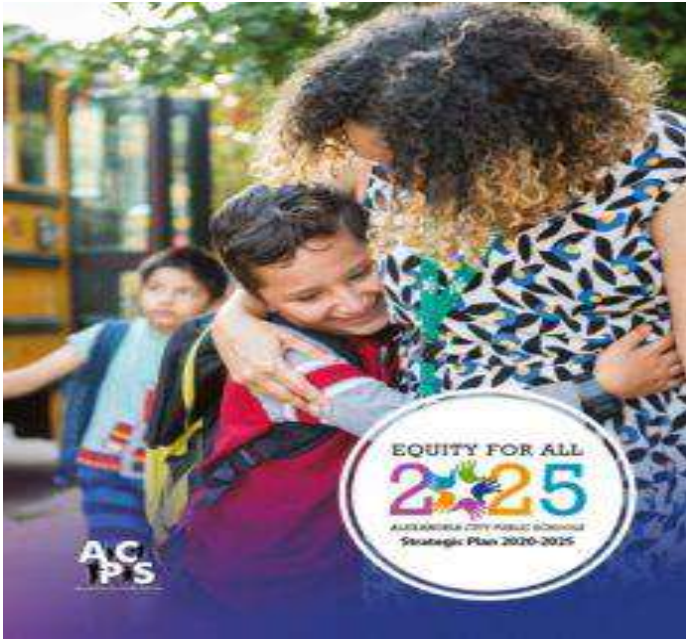
2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

Why does ACPS implement Advanced Academic Services (AAS)?





ACPS Equity for All- 2025 Strategic Plan



Students are **engaged in classroom instruction**, have **access to the educational resources needed to enhance their learning**, and participate in **safe, friendly, and welcoming environments**.

Division-wide priorities and programs that **will eliminate opportunity and achievement gaps** as well as ensure that all students graduate ready for college, careers, and life.



Virginia Regulation: 8VAC20-40

School divisions are required to identify gifted K-12 students and provide instructional services to meet their needs.



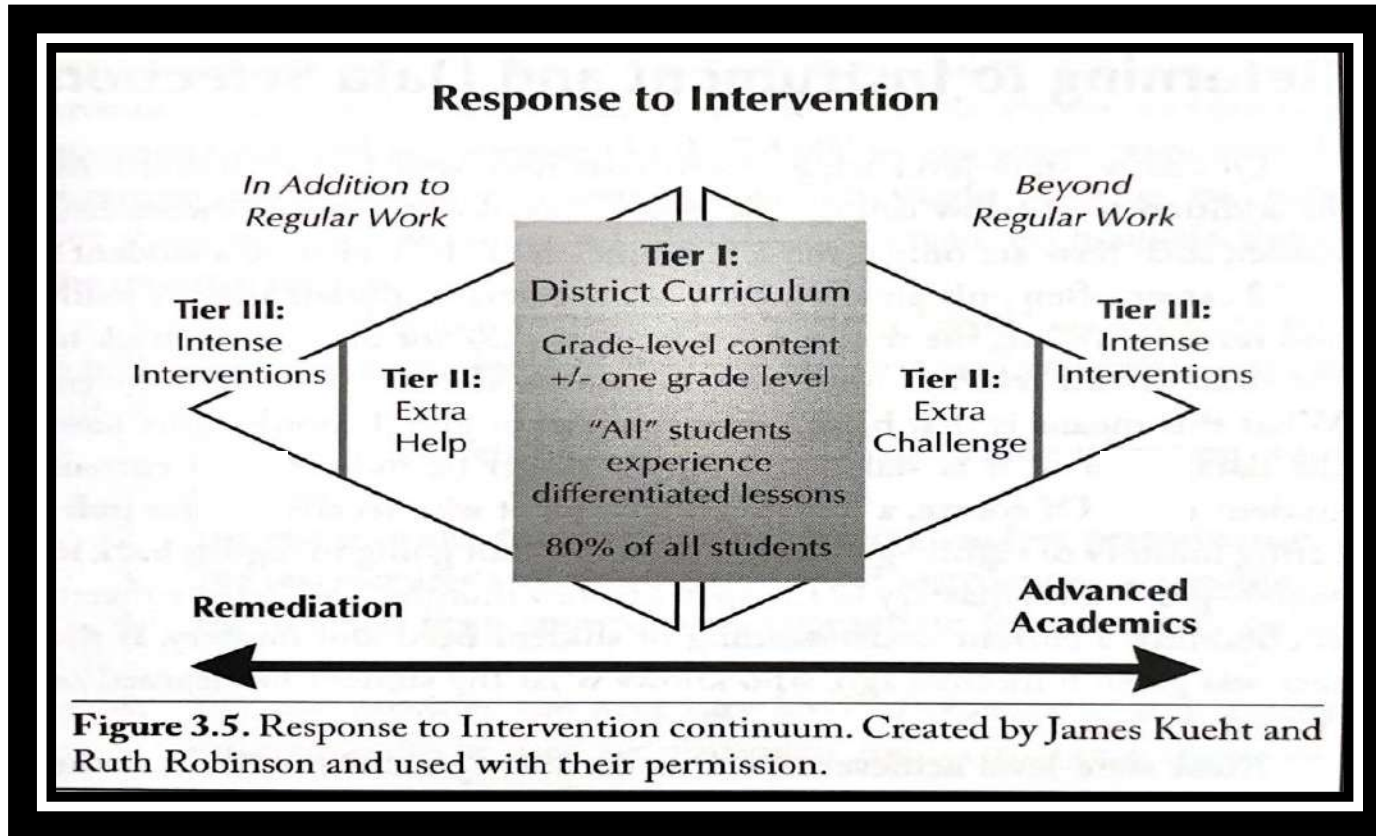


ACPS's Operational Definition of Giftedness

ACPS identifies students in need of **Advanced Academic Services (AAS)** who have the potential to achieve at high academic levels. ACPS addresses the various levels of **advanced academic interventions** the schools and staff will provide for students through an advanced academic services model incorporating **the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)** across grades K-12 using a three-tiered system.



Three Tiers of Services



Tier I

- Critical and Creative Thinking for All

Tier II

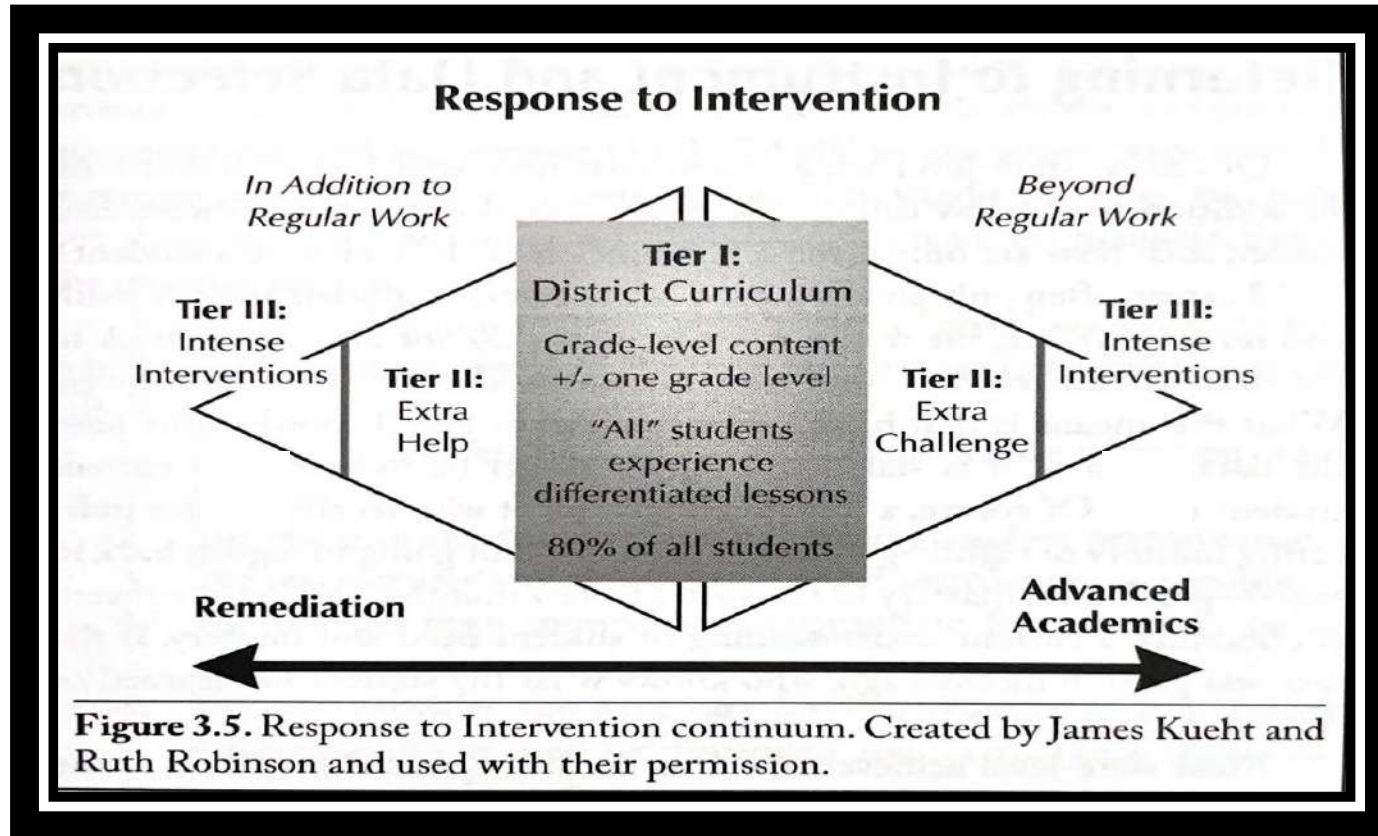
- Young Scholars (YS)
- General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA)-
Grade K-12

Tier III

- Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA)-
Grades 4-12



Tier II- GIA and Tier III- SAA Require Screening



Tier I

- Critical and Creative Thinking for All

Tier II

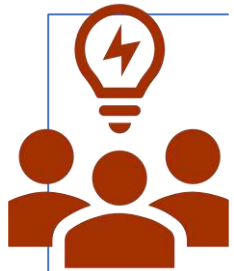
- Young Scholars (YS)
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Grade K-12

Tier III

- Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA)-
Grades 4-12

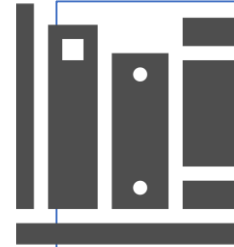


Tier III: Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) Services



Grades 4-5: Math and Language Arts

- Direct instruction from a teacher trained in gifted instruction
- Curriculum resources and strategies are aligned with gifted research and VDOE standards



Grades 4-5: Social Studies and Science

- Services occur in the general education classroom and are provided by the general education classroom teacher
- Differentiated Education Plans (DEPs) are provided to caregivers outlining the extension activities for students



Grades 6-12: Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies

- Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- Dual enrollment (DE) in college courses
- Access to summer Governor's School
- Online course
- Independent studies

2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

How does ACPS screen and identify students for SAA services in Grades 3-5?





Two Methods of Screening

- General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA) for Grades K-3
- Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) for Grades 6-8
- Eligibility is determined at the school level

Matrix Form



- Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) for Grades 3-5
- 3-Phase Approach
- Eligibility is determined at the central office level

Portfolio Approach

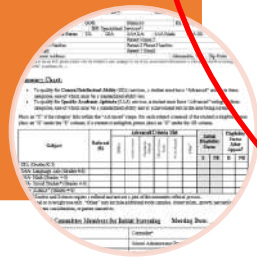




Two Methods of Screening

- General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA) for Grades K-3
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Matrix Form



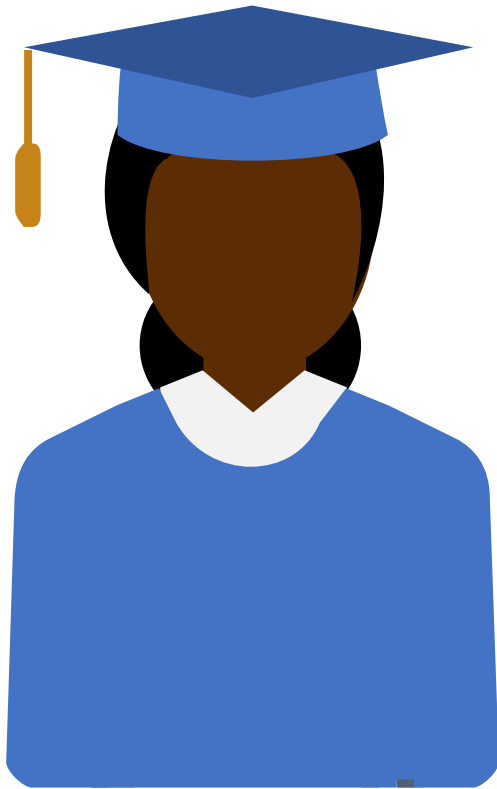
- Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) for Grades 3-5
- 3 Phase Approach
- Eligibility is determined at the central-office level

Portfolio Approach





Local Plan for Gifted: Approved June 2023



Use a holistic screening approach for advanced academic identification

The Central Office Screening Committee members will use a holistic case study approach, and all information will be reviewed to determine a match between a student's needs and available services.

A holistic approach acknowledges the diversity of gifted profiles and allows for **identifying talents and strengths that may not be captured by standardized assessments alone.**

Multiple criteria will be reviewed, and no one piece of information can determine eligibility or ineligibility.



Grades 3-5 SAA Uses a Portfolio Process

An equitable screening process is dependent on two actions:

- + Identifying gifted behaviors across the diverse cultural norms within our district
- + Collecting and analyzing holistic student data in an unbiased way

Phase 1

- Auto-Referral (GIA, HOPE, Ability, YS, Achievement)
- Submitted Referral

Phase 2

- School-Based Screening
- Data Collection
- Deeper Data Dive
- Decision to Move to Phase 3

Phase 3

- Central-Screening Committee
- Holistic Approach
- Eligibility Letters Sent from Central



Universal Screening: Grade 3 for Rising Grade 4 SAA Services

All Grade 3 Students

Phase 1

- Universal Screener Grade using Automatic Referral

Phase 2

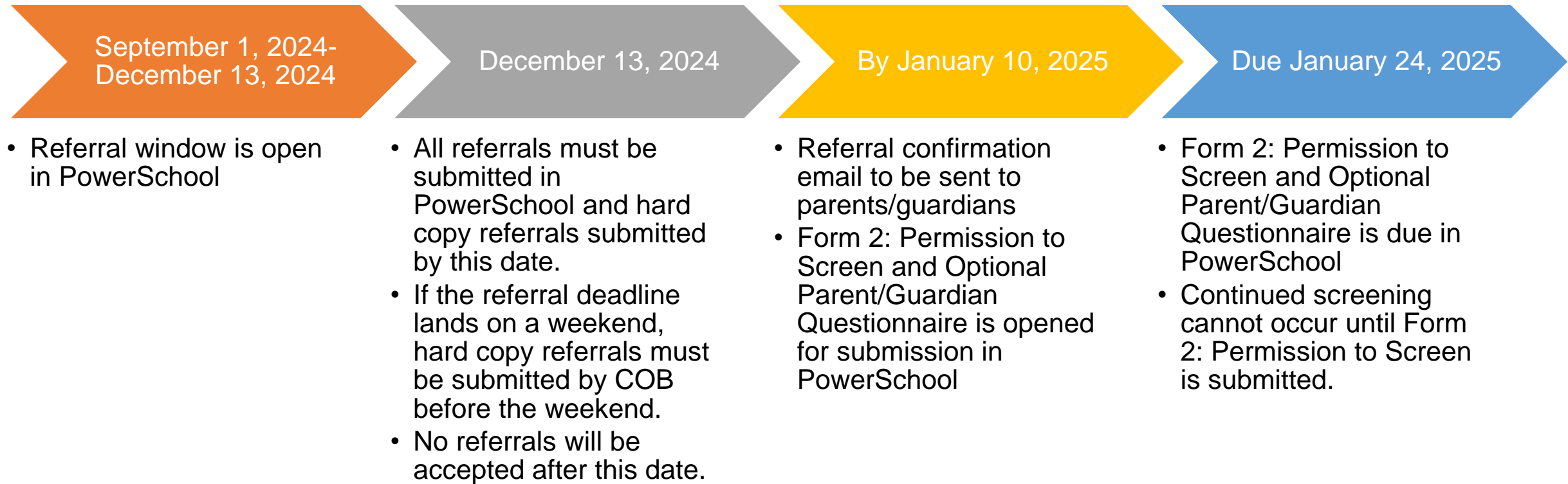
- School-Based Screening: Deeper Data Dive- School Determines if there is strong, consistent data to move to Phase 3.

Phase 3

- Central Office-Based Screening: Determines Eligibility

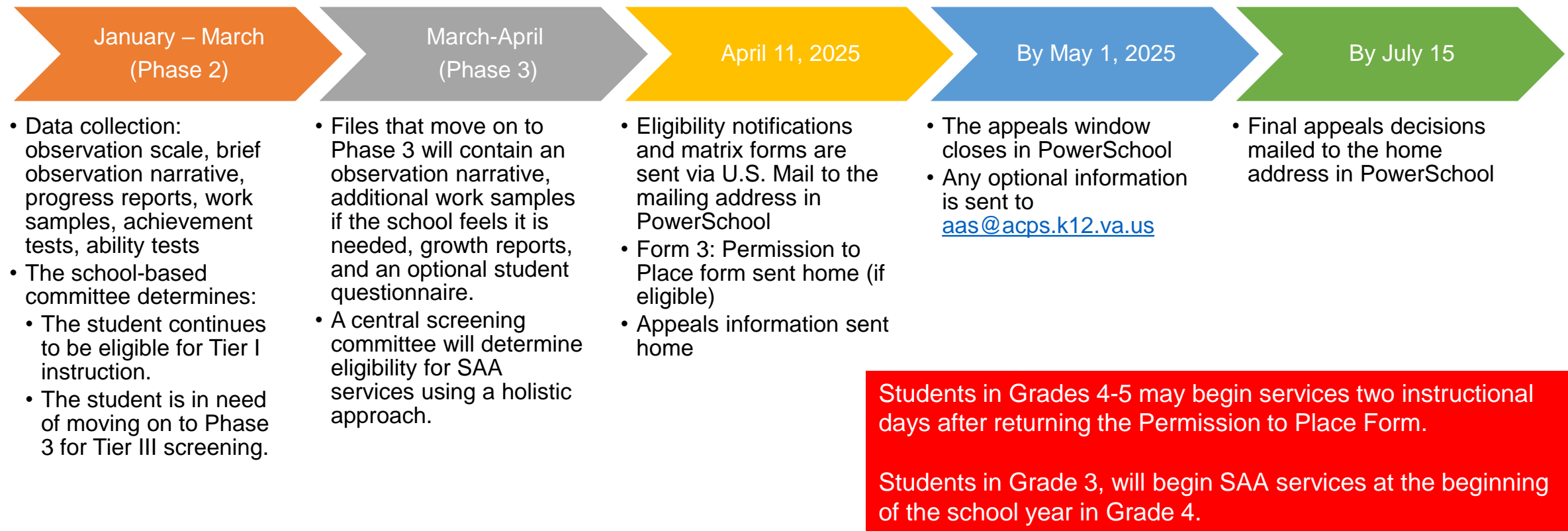


What is the beginning timeline for Grades 3-5 SAA (PHASE 1)





What are the important dates in the portfolio process after a referral form is submitted? (Phase 2-3)





Phase 1: Referral Process for Portfolio Screening

Submitted Referrals

- Grades 3-5

Automatic Referrals: Grade 3

- Ability Scores- 85th percentile or higher
- Achievement Scores- 85th percentile or higher on the Fall MAP test
- Observation Scale- Top 15% of the grade level at the school
- All Young Scholars
- All students eligible for GIA by Fall 2024

Automatic Referral: Grades 4-5

- All Young Scholars



Screening Timeline

The referral deadlines are set to align with testing windows during the ACPS school year, including, NNAT or CogAT assessments, Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments, and end-of-quarter progress reports.










Current Grade	Referral Window Opens	Referral Deadline for the Current School Year	Parent/Guardian eligibility notification will occur by:
Tier II: GIA Services (Grades K-3)	September 1, 2024	December 13, 2024	March 21, 2025
Tier III: SAA Services (Grades 3-5)	September 1, 2024	December 13, 2024	April 11, 2025
Tier III: SAA Services (Grades 6-8)	September 1, 2024	December 13, 2024	March 21, 2025
New students to ACPS in Grades 4-8**	First Day of Entry	Within 30 days of enrollment	Within 90 days of the Permission to Screen form received

Note: You do not need to resubmit a referral for an area your child is already eligible for services.



Referral Forms on PowerSchool

-  **Step 1:**
Log into your PowerSchool Parent Access account.
-  **Step 2:**
Choose the student/child you would like to refer.
-  **Step 3:**
Click on "Forms."
-  **Step 4:**
Choose "2024-2025 Referral Form of Students for Advanced Academic Services (AAS)."
-  **Step 5:**
Select your preferred language.
-  **Step 6:**
Complete the form.
-  **Step 7:**
Click the blue "SUBMIT" button.

Many forms used for AAS screening are in PowerSchool. Please reach out to your school technology specialist or AASL if you need help getting onto PowerSchool.



Form 2: Permission to Screen and Parent Questionnaire



Written Permission for Advanced Academic Services Evaluation & Additional Information

Your child has been referred for Advanced Academic Services (AAS). For your child to be screened for AAS, ACPS requires permission from the parent/guardian to obtain additional information, which may include cognitive testing. This form contains permission-to-screen information and a space to provide optional additional information you would like to share about your child. Please return this form to the AAS Screening lead within 10 instructional days of receiving the confirmation letter.

Permission to Screen

I give permission for my child to be evaluated on appropriately selected measures of ability and/or achievement as requested by the Identification/Placement Committee. This evaluation aims to help determine the student's eligibility for Advanced Academic Services. I understand that the evaluation results are restricted to professional use within Alexandria City Public Schools and are available to me for interpretation and discussion. I understand the results are kept in a confidential file in the school's office.

Student First and Last Name:			ID #:
School:	Grade:	Homeroom Teacher:	
Signature of Parent/Guardian:			Date:
Print Name of Parent/Guardian:			

Optional Information:

As a parent/guardian, you have unique opportunities to see your child in play, work, and family settings. Please share your observations with us so we can better understand your child. This may include information about out-of-school activities and interests, how they are as learners, what motivates them, their leadership or creativity skills, or what brings them joy.



The AAS office will send out the form along with the confirmation receipt of the referral.

The form also include additional information you may want to include for the screening committee.

Located in PowerSchool

Permission is needed to move forward with the screening process.



Phase 2: School Level Screening

During **Phase 2**, the school-based screening team collects multiple indicators of giftedness, such as ability tests, achievement tests, teacher observations, rating scales, student work, and growth reports to create a student screening portfolio.

The school-based screening team then determines if the data on the screening summary sheet meets the criteria to move on to **Phase 3** of screening.





Phase 2: Data Collection Until March

Ability Assessment

Standardized
Achievement Scores

Observation Scales

Progress Reports

Work Samples

Growth Reports

Optional Parent
Information
(submitted via Form
2 or during the
appeals process)



GIA and SAA Standardized Testing Information

Ability (GIA and SAA)

- Any ability test (such as a CogAT, NNAT, WISC) on file will be used.
- Ability tests will only be given to students who do not have an ability test already on file. Grades 3-8: Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT) or K-1: Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test
- CogAT testing will be given in Grades 2.
- NNAT will be given in Grade 3 starting in 2025-2026.

Achievement (SAA and GIA)

- MAP scores
- SOL scores



Screening is conducted by a committee.





Student Data Summary Sheet Used in Phases 2-3

Demographic Information

Achievement Testing Information

Work Samples

Referral Information

Progress Reports: 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

Growth Reports

Ability Testing Information

Characteristic of Gifted Behaviors

Commentary (Phase 3 only)

Alexandria City Public Schools Advanced Academic Services (AAS)

Student Data Summary Chart for AAS Screening

Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA)- Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies

Directions: Use this data to complete the data evaluation chart for Phase 2. This sheet will also be used in Phase 3.

Student Name: Student 1		ID #: 555555	Grade 3	Screening Window: Winter 2024	
School: Alexandria Elementary School					
Gender: M	Age: 9	DOB: 04/11/2014	Ethnicity: Black		EL Level: 3
504 Plan:		IEP/ Specialized Services*:			
Current AAS Eligible Status	YS: X	GIA:	SAA LA:	SAA Math:	SAA SS:
					SAA Sci:

*If the student has an IEP, please check with the student's case manager to see if any assessment information is relevant to AAS screening (e.g., WTSC, Kaufman, etc).

*If a student has an IEP, 504, or EL accommodations, please work with the case manager to ensure accommodations are followed during the screening process. This may also include sitting on the screening committee.

Standardized Ability Results

Qualification Key: Use the charts below to determine if the child scored in the 85 percentile or higher on the CogAT, NNAT, or other abilities measurement. If the "areas applicable" box has an "x" in it, you may use that test battery to determine whether the child met the criteria for that subject.

Subject Area	NNAT Nonverbal	CogAT Verbal	CogAT Quantitative	CogAT Nonverbal	CogAT VQN
General Intellectual Aptitude	X	X	X	X	X
Language Arts	X	X		X	X
Math	X		X	X	X
Social Studies	X	X		X	X
Science	X	X		X	X

Scores:

	NNAT Nonverbal	CogAT Verbal	CogAT Quantitative	CogAT Nonverbal	CogAT VQN	Other
Percentile	86	81	99	79	94	
Age Score	117	114	135	113	125	

Standardized Achievement Results

Most Recent Standards of Learning (SOL) or MAP scores

Most recent benchmark	MAP Reading	SOL Reading	MAP Math	SOL Math	Social Studies SOL	Science SOL	Other
Percentile	92	N/A	91	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Standards-Based Performance- Progress Report

Directions: Place a copy of the student's 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 progress reports in the student's screening file.

Characteristics/Behaviors: Use the HOPE scale draft to finalize the rating scale score as a school committee. Write the score in the "Total Score" column, and circle the student's talent area(s). The screening committee determines the final score. On the HOPE scale form, write "screening committee members" in the "teacher name" section if it is not already on the HOPE scale label.

Total Score	Circle the Talent Areas						
60	Math	Science	Reading	World Language	Creative Writing	Arts	Social Studies

Student Name: Student 1

ID #: 555555

Student Data Screening Summary Sheet

Created: Winter/Spring 2024

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Phases 1 & 2 School-Based Screening Form

Demographic
Information

Referral
Information

School-Based
Committee
Names

School-Based
Decision to
Move the File to
Phase 3

Alexandria City Public Schools Advanced Academic Services (AAS)
Rising 4th Grade Identification Form- Phases 1 and 2
Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA)- Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies

Student Name:	ID #:	Grade:	Screening Window: Winter 2024
School:	Age:	DOB:	Ethnicity:
Gender:	504 Plan:	IEP/ Specialized Services:	EL Level:
Current AAS Eligible Status:	YS:	GIA:	SAA LA: SAA Math: SAA SS: SAA Sci:
Parent Name 1:	Parent Name 2:		
Parent 1 Phone Number:	Parent 2 Phone Number:		
Parent 1 Email:	Parent 2 Email:		
Primary Street Address:	Alexandria, VA	Zip Code:	

*If the student has an IEP, please check with the student's case manager to see if any assessment information is relevant to AAS screening (e.g., WISC, Kaufman, etc.)
 *If a student has an IEP, 504, or EL accommodations, please work with the case manager to ensure accommodations are followed during the screening process. This may also include sitting on the screening committee.

Phase 1: Referral Process: Auto or Submitted Referral Areas

	SAA-Language Arts (Grades 4-8)	SAA-Math (Grades 4-8)	SAA-Social Studies* (Grades 4-8)	SAA-Science* (Grades 4-8)
Referral Area				

* Social Studies and Science require a referral and are not a part of the automatic referral process.

Phase 2: Local School AAS Screening Committee

School-Based Committee Members for Phase 2 Screening Meeting Date: _____

Role	Name	Signature
AAS Screening Leading*		
Classroom Teacher*		
AAS Teacher*		
Counselor*		
Administrator/Designee*		
Assessment Specialist/Coch		
Young Scholars Lead		
Other:		

*Required member

Phase 2: Summary School-Based Committee Decision Please see the following page for more specific decision information

The committee reviewed the information in the student portfolio and made one of three decisions:

- ☐ The student is not eligible for AAS- Tier III Specific Academic Aptitude services
- ☐ The student will move on to Phase 3 screening. (See areas reflected in the chart on the Data Evaluation page).
- ☐ The student will move on to Phase 3 screening due to an oversight request from the school-based screening committee.

Student Name: _____ ID #: _____

Phases 1 & 2: AAS Screening 2023-2024 Created: Winter/Spring 2024 Page 1 of 4



Phase 2 Form: Screening Decision Form

Directions: For each referral area, determine if the data meets the criteria for further screening using the student data summary sheet. Students need at least three checkmarks for each referral area (e.g., Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and/or Science) to advance to Phase 3. Count the checkmarks and write the total for each referral area.

Criteria Title	Criteria Description	Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science
Ability*	85 percentile or higher on the CogAT, NNAT, or other abilities measurement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Achievement*	85 percentile or higher, 560 or higher on SOL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Progress Reports	Mostly 3s and 4s (2022-2023 Q1-Q4 and 2023-2024 Q1-Q2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observation Scales	Top 85% of school grade level or total HOPE scale score of 50 or higher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work Samples	3.5 or higher on at least one work sample out of the two	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Growth	Considerable Growth on MAP (85th percentile or higher)/ English Proficiency Growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Check Marks for Each Subject					
The student will move on to Phase 3 screening in the following areas:		Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No



Phase 2: Data Collection & School-Based Decision

The committee collects and reviews information in the student portfolio and makes one of three decisions:

Choice 1

- The student is not eligible for AAS- Tier III Specific Academic Aptitude services

Choice 2

- The student will move on to Phase 3 screening.

Choice 3

- The student will move on to Phase 3 screening due to an oversight request from the school-based screening committee.



Who makes the decision for eligibility at Phase 3?

The committee is made up of school system professionals who are trained in the holistic screening process.

It is important to know that no single committee reader makes an eligibility decision.

Each file is read by a minimum of four and up to six committee members to determine eligibility.

A consensus of four readers determines the eligibility decision.

To ensure consistency in the screening process, an oversight committee has reviewed all decisions of ineligibility.



Phase 3: How is a determination made?

The committee review information to determine a need for advanced services above and beyond the general education curriculum.

Committee readers concentrate on the story that the file tells as a whole (holistic review).

Not one piece of information determines eligibility.

Unlike the matrix screening process, nothing in the portfolio is weighted more than the other.

The committee is looking for consistency of advanced performance and large growth over time.

The screening committee does not complete an individual Phase 3 summary report due to the nature of a holistic approach





Notification to Families

Decision letters will be sent via United States Postal Services to the mailing address on file in PowerSchool.



Sent Home

- Parent Notification Letter of Services
- Permission to Place the form for students eligible
- Appeals information for students who are not eligible
- Summary of Data form from Phase 2
- Phase 2 Decision Sheet

Parents May Request

- Review of the screening file once the files are returned to the school from central office



What happens if my child is not found eligible for AAS services?

Parents/guardians have the right to appeal the decision of the Identification/Placement Committee **within 10 ACPS instructional days** after being informed of their child's eligibility for services or a decision regarding a change in placement.

You may submit an appeal form via PowerSchool: Advanced Academic Services Appeal.

Additional information sent to: aas@acps.k12.va.us

If your child is ineligible for services, you will receive additional information about the appeals process within the envelope that contains the eligibility and matrix forms.



Additional Information

Elementary and middle schools will host optional Parent/Guardian Q&A sessions between now and October 15, 2024. Please be on the lookout for more information from your child's school.

For questions or additional support please contact your child's AAS screening lead. Screening lead names are located on the AAS website.

Additional AAS overviews are located on the AAS website.

A FAQ section is in the process of being developed and will be posted by October 15, 2024.



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Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner,
Advanced Academic Services (K-12), Director
megan.tempel-milner@acps.k12.va.us

Ms. Mashari Whitfield,
Advanced Academic Services, Elementary Instructional Specialist
mashari.whitfield@acps.k12.va.us

Ms. Rushel Grillo,
Advanced Academic Services, Secondary Instructional Specialist
rushel.grillo@acps.k12.va.us