



quick tips...

Essential information and/or interesting facts from Special Education Services, Alabama State Department of Education.

for Gifted Education



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IMPORTANT REMINDERS

All Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must serve gifted students in grades Kindergarten (6 years old) through 12th grade (graduation). Gifted Education is authorized under the Exceptional Child Act (106) of the Alabama State Legislature but is not a part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

- In order to be referred for gifted services, students must be **at least 6 years old** and **enrolled in public school**. Students enrolled in private schools are not eligible for gifted referrals or gifted services provided by public schools.
- Gifted identity must be maintained in STISETS **through grade 12 or upon transfer out of the LEA**, even when students are served indirectly.
- All second graders are considered potential gifted referrals. Each LEA must conduct a mandatory Second Grade Child Find. This includes review of gifted behavior scales completed by the classroom teachers and others, collection of six required products designed to elicit gifted behaviors (usually carried out and collected by the Gifted Specialist), and other pertinent data such as achievement test scores, if available. **A LEA Summary Report from Second Grade Child Find must be sent to the ALSDE annually in April.**
- **Out of state transfer students** identified as gifted must be re-evaluated and found eligible using Alabama State guidelines before they can be served in the gifted program. **In-state transfer students** who are identified as gifted under Alabama State guidelines must be accepted and served in the gifted and enrichment programs in their new schools.
- Gifted students must be accurately reported as part of annual **Child Count**.
- The **Gifted Referral Tracking Log** (dating from October 2 of the previous year to October 1 of the current year) **must be submitted through STISETS no later than mid-October.**
- Gifted programs are monitored by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) through consolidated monitoring. During the years between the ALSDE monitoring, per section 7 of the LEA Plan, **each LEA must self-monitor its gifted program.**
- Gifted services, including advanced classes and electives must be comparable for all students within a specific grade level across an LEA. This includes advanced courses at the high school level. **General education teachers must be knowledgeable of gifted learners, trained in differentiation for gifted, and demonstrate a willingness to address the needs of diverse learners.** Consultative services must be provided Grades K-2.
- Gifted Specialists must be certified in gifted education or obtain certification within 3 years of being hired as a Gifted Specialist. **These regulations apply to systems serving gifted students through both traditional gifted programs and Enrichment Programs.**
- State regulations and guidelines for gifted education are found in the **Alabama Administrative Code (AAC)**, section 290-8-9.12 and the Help Document, which can be accessed at the ALSDE Website. Each LEA has an ALSDE approved **LEA Plan**, including **Acceleration Procedures**, with specific information on how it serves its gifted students. **The AAC provides minimum program regulations and guidelines upon which these LEA plans are based.**