

# Eligibility

## **Referral Process for GATE:**

Parents, teachers, administrators, and school staff may refer students. Referral forms may be obtained from the guidance counselor or GATE contact at each school. Referrals can be submitted throughout the school year. Referrals should be returned to the classroom teacher, guidance counselor, GATE contact or the Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator. The timeline for an eligibility decision on each case is 60 instructional days from the date received by the Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator.

All students in grades 2 and 5 will be screened using the OLSAT (Otis-Lennon School Ability Test). Based on the results of this screening and teacher recommendation, a pool of students will be selected for further testing. Parents must give permission for additional testing to determine eligibility for the GATE program.

## **Eligibility Process**

A multi-disciplinary committee will review assessment information of students referred for consideration for the gifted program. This committee will be comprised of the following:

- Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator
- Classroom Teacher(s)
- Guidance Counselor
- Administrator or designee

Data will be compiled by the gifted education teacher or GATE contact. Once eligibility data collection is completed, an eligibility meeting date will be scheduled. The gifted education or GATE contact is responsible for all relevant data and forms which are considered and summarized on an Eligibility Matrix by the Eligibility Committee. The timeline for an eligibility decision on each case is 60 instructional days from the date received by the Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator. Eligibility decisions are based on attainment of a set cut-off score on the Division Matrix for gifted education service. The committee reserves the right to determine a child is eligible even if the score is below cut-off as determined by consensus of the committee. Mecklenburg County Public Schools will not place nor deny gifted services based on any one component.

Awards recognized by the Mecklenburg County Public Schools GATE program must have National Data to support their assessment and recognition, i.e. John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Talent Search or the Duke University Talent Search.

### **Appeals Process**

Decisions regarding identification or placement may be appealed in writing no later than fifteen (15) instructional days after parents have been informed of a placement decision by the Identification/Placement Committee. Written request for an appeal must be submitted to Mecklenburg County's GATE Coordinator. Parents/Guardians who plan to seek outside testing in order to provide additional information for an appeal must include this information in the written request.

The Appeals Committee will meet within twenty (20) instructional days of the written request by the parents. The Appeals Committee will review criteria consistent with the Identification/Placement Committee criteria to maintain continuity of placement standards. Additional testing may be required by the Appeals Committee.

Parents will be notified in writing by the GATE Coordinator within six (6) working days of the decision of the Appeals Committee.