



Dawson County Schools

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Dr. Damon Gibbs

Superintendent

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Board Members:
William Wade, Chairman
Elaine Wilson, Vice-Chairman
Karen Armstrong
Doris Cook
Roger Slaton

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Dawson County School System follows the state-mandated gifted rule (160-4-2-.38). State guidelines require that parents/guardians of all public school students be informed of eligibility criteria used to determine gifted program placement, the process for referring students for consideration for gifted placement, and the gifted program description.

The Dawson County Board of Education recognizes the need to provide gifted education services for students who have the potential for exceptional academic achievement in grades K-12. A gifted student is one “who meets the eligibility criteria as identified in this rule and as defined in the *GaDOE Resource Manual for Gifted Education Services*.”

Teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, or other individuals with knowledge of the student’s abilities may refer a student for consideration for gifted educational services. Students who score at specified levels established by the Dawson County Board of Education on a norm-referenced test shall be automatically nominated for consideration of eligibility of gifted services.

The Georgia Board of Education has set two standards of eligibility:

- A student may qualify by meeting a mental ability composite score plus achievement test requirement, or
- A student may also qualify by meeting three of the four criteria: mental ability, achievement, creativity, and motivation.

Any student who has met the state eligibility criteria for gifted education services in another Georgia public school system shall be considered eligible to receive gifted education services by the Dawson County School System upon the system’s receipt of an eligibility report. A student transferring from a Georgia public school system to a Dawson County School shall meet the criteria for continuation of gifted services established by the Dawson County Board of Education. Dawson County Schools shall not recognize gifted eligibility established in another state.

Written consent for testing shall be obtained from parents or guardians of students being considered for gifted education services. Parents or guardians also must provide written consent before students determined to be eligible for gifted education services can receive these services. At any point in this process, parents or guardians may schedule a conference to discuss eligibility requirements and service options.

For additional information, please call your child’s school or Dr. Janice Darnell, the system’s Director of Student Support, at the Board of Education Office at (706) 265-3246, extension 1014.