

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE ACADEMICALLY GIFTED AND
TALENTED PROGRAM
1ST GRADE THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL**

Eligibility criteria have been established which reflect an accurate representation of the gifted and talented population in the South River Public Schools. These criteria are grounded in the identification system developed by Joseph S. Renzulli, Director of the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented at the University of Connecticut. Renzulli's identification system attempts to address excellence, equity, and economic issues. It is based upon research and reflects three interlocking clusters of ability which characterize highly creative and productive individuals—well above average ability, task commitment, and creativity. This set of criteria encourages students to excel in all areas, rather than qualify by a particular strength.

All students must meet the initial criteria each school year. Once criteria are met, students are invited to participate in the one year long program.

In order to qualify for the Academically Gifted & Talented Program, a student must meet the criteria described below.

INITIAL CRITERIA:

Students entering Grade 1 (see attached matrix):

- Students must achieve a minimum of 1 point on matrix based on the Kindergarten standardized test score (Terra Nova- minimum 95% Total Battery).
- Students must score a minimum of 1 point on the matrix for report card grades from Kindergarten.
- Based on the Teacher Recommendation form, students must achieve 1 TOTAL point (i.e. 2 characteristics circled) in at least **two** of the following four categories: motivation, leadership, learning, and/or creativity.
- Upon completion of the matrix, students must achieve a minimum of 10 points on the matrix to qualify into the program.
- **All** criteria must be met in order to qualify for the program.

Students entering Grade 2 (see attached matrix):

- Students must achieve at least 1 point on the matrix for NJ PASS 1 Language Arts Literacy score (minimum score 23).
- Students must achieve at least 1 point on the matrix for NJ PASS 1 Math score (minimum score 33).
- Students must score a minimum of 1 point on the matrix for final report card grades from grade 1.

- Based on the Teacher Recommendation form, students must achieve 1 TOTAL point (i.e. 2 characteristics circled) in at least **two** of the following four categories: motivation, leadership, learning, and/or creativity.
- Upon completion of the matrix, students must achieve a minimum of 10 points on the matrix to qualify into the program.
- **All** criteria must be met in order to qualify for the program.

Students entering Grade 3 (see attached matrix):

- Students must achieve at least 1 point on the matrix for NJ PASS 2 Language Arts Literacy score (minimum score 29).
- Students must achieve at least 1 point on the matrix for NJ PASS 2 Math score (minimum score 34).
- Students must score a minimum of 1 point on the matrix for final report card grades from grade 2.
- Based on the Teacher Recommendation form, students must achieve 1 TOTAL point (i.e. 2 characteristics circled) in at least **two** of the following four categories: motivation, leadership, learning, and/or creativity.
- Upon completion of the matrix, students must achieve a minimum of 11 points on the matrix to qualify into the program.
- **All** criteria must be met in order to qualify for the program.

Students entering Grades 4-6 (see attached matrix):

- Students must achieve at least 1 point on the matrix for the previous year's NJ ASK Language Arts Literacy test (minimum score 225).
- Students must achieve at least 1 point on the matrix for the previous year's NJ ASK Math test (minimum score 225).
- Students must score a minimum of 2 points on the matrix for final report card grades from previous grade level (minimum of 1 A in a core class; Language Arts Literacy, Math, Science, or Social Studies. Additionally, **no** other core class final grade may be lower than a B- . For all other classes, no grade may be lower than a C).
- Based on the Teacher Recommendation form, students must achieve 1 TOTAL point (i.e. 2 characteristics circled) in at least **two** of the following four categories: motivation, leadership, learning, and/or creativity.
- Upon completion of the matrix, students must achieve a minimum of 12 points on the matrix to qualify into the program.
- **All** criteria must be met in order to qualify for the program.

Students entering Grades 7-9 (see attached matrix):

- Students must achieve at least 1 point on the matrix for the previous year's NJ ASK Language Arts Literacy test (minimum score 225).
- Students must achieve at least 1 point on the matrix for the previous year's NJ ASK Math test (minimum score 225).
- Students must score a minimum of 2 points on the matrix for final report card grades from previous grade level (minimum of 1 A in a core class; Language Arts Literacy, Math, Science, or Social Studies. Additionally, **no** other core class final grade may be lower than a B- . For all other classes, no grade may be lower than a C).
- Based on the Teacher Recommendation form, students must achieve 1 TOTAL point (i.e. 2 characteristics circled) in at least **two** of the following four categories: motivation, leadership, learning, and/or creativity.
- Upon completion of the matrix, students must achieve a minimum of 12 points on the matrix to qualify into the program.
- **All** criteria must be met in order to qualify for the program.

Students entering Grades 10-12

- Students must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 4.5 or above and no grade lower than a B- for final report card grade from previous grade level.
- Three teacher recommendations - Based on the Teacher Recommendation form, students must achieve 1 TOTAL point (i.e. 2 characteristics circled) in at least **two** of the following four categories: motivation, leadership, learning, and/or creativity.

ATTENDANCE:

The student must fully abide by the Board of Education and school attendance policy and procedures.

EXCEPTIONS:

For students who do not speak English as their native language, the standardized test criteria above may be waived if all other criteria are met. Students must be enrolled in ESL. Based upon ongoing consultation with the ESL and classroom teachers, their recommendation must be considered prior to placement in the Academically Gifted and Talented program.

TRANSFER STUDENTS:

Students who transfer into the district are immediately eligible to be admitted into the program if they meet the eligibility criteria. Transfer students who enter the district without standardized test scores will be admitted based upon meeting the eligibility criteria in the areas of grades, attendance, and teacher recommendation(s) if available.

PROBATION:

Grades 1-2:

Student grades will be monitored through ongoing discussions with the classroom teacher. If the classroom teacher has concerns about a student's progress in any area, the student will be required to take a leave from the Enrichment program until improvement is noted. The Academic Enrichment teacher and the classroom teacher maintain ongoing dialogue and decide when the student can return to the program.

Grade 3-8:

Student grades will be monitored quarterly. If any academic grade (Language Arts, Math, Science, or Social Studies) is a "C," a student will be placed on probation. Probation mandates that a child remain in his/her regular education course in which he/she is struggling. The student can still participate in G & T classes whenever he/she is scheduled to attend classes that do not coincide with the class in which the "C" was received. This will afford the child the opportunity to bring up the grade without being penalized in the Gifted and Talented classes. If there is no improvement by the end of the following marking period, the student will be exited from the program for the remainder of the school year. The child may qualify for the program the following school year if all initial criteria are met.

EXIT CRITERIA:

Students will be exited from the Academically Gifted and Talented Program for the remainder of the current school year if **ANY** of the following occur:

- Any student who receives a D or an F in any subject **or** two or more "Incomplete" grades in any subject will be exited from the program immediately.
- Any grade drops below a B- for any two consecutive marking periods. Any student exited for this reason **may not** seek to be readmitted into the program for the remainder of the year.
- Regular school or class attendance drops below acceptable levels (eight unexcused days absent per year or four class cuts – all classes, not per class).
- Parent or student request
- Behavior problems of a chronic nature. Principal's recommendation is needed for removal from the program on these grounds.

READMITTANCE TO THE PROGRAM AFTER REMOVAL:

Students exited from the program during the current school year due to **attendance, behavior, or parental request**, may be readmitted to the Academically Gifted and Talented program if **ALL** of the following occur:

- The parent or student notifies the Guidance Counselor or the Director of Special Education to request return to the program.
- Behavior problems are eliminated. Principal's recommendation is needed for re-admittance to the program on these grounds.
- Having previously been accepted into the program for the current school year, it is not required for the student to again meet the standardized testing criterion; however, the student must have maintained the academic standard warranted by the criteria; i.e. core class report card grades must be a B- or higher.

ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES:

For any student that does not qualify for the Academically Gifted & Talented program for the current school year, but had participated in the G & T program the previous year, his/her regular education teachers will be notified. In an effort to help those students once again qualify in years to come, teachers will be given the opportunity to utilize gifted education resources to differentiate instruction for those identified. While it is understood that teachers differentiate instruction, the enhancement activity is meant to serve as an additional resource for teachers as a means to help children achieve his/her highest potential. Gifted and Talented teachers are available as a resource to guide classroom teachers in accessing appropriate materials.

REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Eligibility criteria will be reviewed and amended if necessary when a new report card format is adopted, standardized tests are eliminated or replaced, and once every three years.

Student Name:

Grade:

Academic Enrichment criteria matrix (entering 1st grade)	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
Terra Nova Test	95%	96%	97%	98%	99%
Report Card Grades (# of 3's)	22	23	24-26	27-29	30-31
Teacher Recommendation (minimum of 2 areas)					
Motivation					
Leadership					
Learning					
Creativity					

Minimum score of 10 points to qualify for gifted and talented program.

*** Students must receive at least one point on each criterion: Terra Nova and Report Card grades

***Based on the teacher recommendation form, students must achieve 1 TOTAL point (i.e. 2 characteristics circled) in at least two of the four categories: motivation, leadership, learning, and/or creativity.

Student Name:

Grade:

Academic Enrichment criteria matrix (entering 2 nd grade)	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
NJ PASS Language Arts Literacy (Grade 1)	23-24	25-26	27-28	29-31	32-34
NJ PASS Math (Grade 1)	33	34	35	36	37-38
Report Card Grades (# 3's)	19	20	21-22	23-24	25-26
Teacher Recommendation (minimum of 2 areas)					
Motivation					
Leadership					
Learning					
Creativity					

Minimum score of 10 points to qualify for gifted and talented program.

*** Students must receive at least one point on each criterion: NJ PASS LAL, NJ PASS Math, and Report Card grades

*** Based on the teacher recommendation form, students must achieve 1 TOTAL point (i.e. 2 characteristics circled) in at least two of the four categories: motivation, leadership, learning, and/or creativity.

Student Name:

Grade:

G & T criteria matrix (entering 3 rd grade)	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
NJ PASS Language Arts Literacy (Grade 2)	29-30	31-33	34-36	37-39	40-42
NJ PASS Math (Grade 2)	34	35	36	37-38	39-40
Report Card Grades (# 3's)	23	24	25	26-27	28-29
Teacher Recommendation (minimum of 2 areas)					
Motivation					
Leadership					
Learning					
Creativity					

Minimum score of 11 points to qualify for gifted and talented program.

*** Students must receive at least one point on each criterion: NJ PASS LAL, NJ PASS Math, and Report Card grades

*** Based on the teacher recommendation form, students must achieve 1 TOTAL point (i.e. 2 characteristics circled) in at least two of the four categories: motivation, leadership, learning, and/or creativity.

Student Name:

Grade:

G & T criteria matrix (entering grades 4-6)	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
NJ ASK Language Arts Literacy	225-235	236-245	246-255	256-270	271-300
NJ ASK Math	225-235	236-245	246-255	256-270	271-300
Report Card Grades (A)		1	2	3	4
Teacher Recommendation (minimum of 2 areas)					
Motivation					
Leadership					
Learning					
Creativity					

Minimum score of 12 points to qualify for gifted and talented program.

*** Students must receive at least one point on each criterion: NJ ASK LAL, NJ ASK Math.

*** Students must score a minimum of 2 points on the matrix for final report card grades from previous grade level (minimum of 1 A in a core class; Language Arts Literacy, Math, Science, or Social Studies. Additionally, **no** other core class final grade may be lower than a B- . For all other classes, no grade may be lower than a C).

*** Based on the teacher recommendation form, students must achieve 1 TOTAL point (i.e. 2 characteristics circled) in at least two of the four categories: motivation, leadership, learning, and/or creativity.

Student Name:

Grade:

G & T criteria matrix (entering grades 7-9)	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
NJ ASK Language Arts Literacy	225-235	236-245	246-255	256-270	271-300
NJ ASK Math	225-235	236-245	246-255	256-270	271-300
Report Card Grades (A)		1	2	3	4
Teacher Recommendation (minimum of 2 areas)					
Motivation					
Leadership					
Learning					
Creativity					

Minimum score of 12 points to qualify for gifted and talented program.

*** Students must receive at least one point on each criterion: NJ ASK LAL, NJ ASK Math.

*** Students must score a minimum of 2 points on the matrix for final report card grades from previous grade level (minimum of 1 A in a core class; Language Arts Literacy, Math, Science, or Social Studies. Additionally, **no** other core class final grade may be lower than a B- . For all other classes, no grade may be lower than a C).

*** Based on the teacher recommendation form, students must achieve 1 TOTAL point (i.e. 2 characteristics circled) in at least two of the four categories: motivation, leadership, learning, and/or creativity.