

January 9, 2012

**TO:** Parents of students assessed for the Gifted Program December 2011  
**FROM:** Gyimah Whitaker, Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator  
**RE:** Fall Referral Achievement Tests and Gifted Eligibility

Many of you have been in contact with the gifted teacher at your child's school and/or the Office of Gifted and Talented Education regarding the testing of your student. As coordinator, I thought it best to update you on where we are in the process.

Students who were referred for gifted assessments this fall received tests of creativity and mental ability prior to the winter break. Elementary students had data collected in the area of motivation using the Gifted Rating Scales. Middle and high schools are collecting motivation data currently. All students are still in need of achievement data.

The collection of achievement data for Atlanta Public Schools is a Research, Planning, and Accountability (RPA) duty. Ultimately the decision of which instrument is used is determined by RPA. My office has been working diligently with theirs to secure the instrument and timeline of administration. As soon as this decision has been reached, students will be assessed, and a determination of gifted eligibility will be made.

Students who are determined eligible for gifted services from fall testing will begin receiving services this school year.

I realize this process has taken longer than expected and everyone is eager to know the eligibility status of their child. However, data must be collected in all four areas (mental ability, creativity, achievement, and motivation) before a determination of eligibility can be made. My office staff and gifted teachers district-wide are working diligently to gather all necessary data. I appreciate your continued patience and understanding as the process continues. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions.

Happy New Year,



Gyimah I. Whitaker  
Gifted Education Coordinator