

AAP QUESTIONS

October 26, 2022 Level IV Screening procedures Meeting

1. Can we get some specific examples of non-test related things that the committee is looking for when determining eligibility for full time level 4 AAP?

The central screening committee looks at each student's level IV file holistically. In addition to test and ability scores, the committee looks at a student's exceptional ability to think critically and creatively, reason, and problem solve as demonstrated in work samples from the four core academic areas and the gifted behaviors rating scale. Progress reports are considered, along with the referral form and any optional materials submitted by the parent. You may read about the central screening process at this link:

<https://www.fcps.edu/academics/academic-overview/advanced-academic-programs-aap/holistic-case-study-approach>

2. How old can work samples be?

Work samples should showcase your student's ability to think critically and creatively, reason, and problem solve. While there is no hard and fast rule, work samples should be from the current school year. However, if you have a particular piece of work from a previous school year that shows your student's exceptional ability as compared to others of the same age, background, and experience, you may use it.

3. If Fox mill is not our base school, would a student be placed in a local AAP center school?

If your child is not pupil-placed for the Japanese Immersion Program at Fox Mill, then yes, parents will choose between their local AAP center school or their base school if the base school has the local level IV program.

4. What are the test score or percentile cut-offs for the universal screener?

The universal screener referral is intended to capture a group of students at each school who may require advanced differentiation based on one of many measures that are considered. It is not a determination of eligibility. Read more about the Universal Screener at the link below.

<https://www.fcps.edu/academics/academic-overview/advanced-academic-programs-aap/advanced-academic-programs-aap-level-iv>

5. Do Level 4 students have separate lessons as a group regularly?

While students accessing level IV services do not always have separate focus lessons, they do have several opportunities throughout the school day to collaborate with their peers in small group work. The content standards taught to students who receive level IV advanced academic services are differentiated through extensions and enrichment. Students also have ongoing opportunities for reflection and self-assessment that develop an understanding of the characteristics, demands, and responsibilities of advanced intellectual development.

6. Do I-ready or SOL scores get sent as well?
Beginning with the 2022-2023 screening year, i-Ready scores will automatically be part of the test score sheet submitted with the student's level IV file.
7. If students are in the Japanese immersion program, is it compatible with level IV?
Students in the Japanese Immersion Program at Fox Mill in grades 3 and 4 who are eligible for the full time AAP Program receive those services in Japanese. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, grade 5 will be added. Grade 6 will be added in the 2024-2025 school year.
8. Can we submit the referral and get the additional info to you later?
Please submit the referral and any optional materials at the same time, in PDF format, via email. Documents may also be dropped off in person, but email is time-saving and preferred.
9. Will my student's teacher let me know if she is being submitted for eligibility by the teacher/school?
If a staff member submits a referral, the parent /guardian will be notified.
10. If our child has extremely strong test scores (including from GMU) and we have spent a lot of time and effort on our parent referral, but they have still been found ineligible twice... What can be done? Lack of feedback is frustrating.
Test scores are not weighted more heavily in the portfolio review process. No part of the screening portfolio is weighted when considering whether a student may need a different placement in order to have their advanced learning needs met. All elements -- referral forms, progress reports, work samples, Gifted Behaviors Rating Scale, parent questionnaire, and test scores -- are considered holistically in the process. [More information about elements included in screening portfolios](#) can be found on the FCPS main AAP web page under "Presentations: Learn about Advanced Academic Programs and Services."

Keep in mind that the central selection committee involves staff from all elementary schools, some middle schools, and some central office staff. The overall committee meets in groups of 6 to review files from the same school at the same time. Each reader makes their own vote of eligibility based on their holistic review of the portfolio. Consensus of at least 4 committee members makes the determination of eligible or ineligible for Level IV AAP. A file can be appealed, but the decision of the appeals committee is final.

I like to think of the level IV screening process as similar to college admissions. Admissions officers do not provide feedback on why a student did not get into a certain college. They review thousands of files, as do the central screening committee. It is possible to tell what needs to be part of each file and how it is reviewed, but not possible to provide every parent whose child was not found eligible specific feedback on how 6 independent screeners reached their decisions. The point of having the consensus of at least 4 committee members to make the determination of eligible or ineligible for Level IV AAP is to ensure equity in the decision.

Parents may submit a level IV referral once per school year through 7th grade.