

COVID-19 Impact on AG Services in Guilford County Schools



[Image Source](#)

For nearly a year, a storm has plagued our nation. What storm you ask? The storm of COVID – 19. Like most big storms that cause national catastrophes, we cannot expect things to quickly return to normal. As such, we must make adjustments that ensure that we are making the best decisions for all those impacted by this lifechanging situation. For the AG Department, this means addressing how we identify and serve students during this global pandemic.

Since the start of this school year, one frequent question has been, “How will you identify new students?”. Just recently, the district made the decision to postpone the 2020 – 2021 administration of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) which is given annually to all third graders. As a universal screener, the CogAT serves as the first data point used to evaluate a student’s potential need for AG services. However, to address the social and emotional needs of our students and to ensure an equitable administration, the assessment has been postponed until next school year. On the next page, Table 1 details the impact this decision will have on future AG identification – including our plan to identify students for the VS Program housed exclusively at the Academy at Lincoln. If you have a question about this table, we invite you to visit the AG Department’s website and click on the “Submit A Question” link. Once received, a member of the AG Department will provide a written response to your question. We also will develop an FAQ document to summarize any questions that are frequently submitted.



Table 1: Impact on Currently Enrolled 4th – 7th Grade Students

Impact of No CogAT Testing:	Determining VS Eligibility:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decision to postpone the CogAT does not impact these grade levels because our district has never administered the CogAT to these grade levels. • In the Spring of 2021, these students will take the NC Grade End-of-Grade assessments. • In the Fall of 2021, the AG Department will use the data from the Spring 2021 EOG assessments to identify students who may need further evaluations to determine their eligibility for AG services. • At grades 6 – 8, AG identification is based upon student achievement performance at 90th percentile or higher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the results of the 2021 EOG assessments, students who meet the established threshold will receive an invitation to attend Summer Testing. • Families who register their children for the VS summer evaluations will be asked to make a commitment to enroll their child in the VS Program should their child meet eligibility criteria. As such, should an invitation to Summer Testing be extended, only those families who are seriously considering VS services should register their child for Summer Testing. • At the middle grade level, the student must have the reading and math EOG achievement PLUS be enrolled in AIMM (6th grade) or NC Math 1 (7th grade).

As we know, the impact of COVID-19 has not been predictable. The AG Department reserves the right to change these procedures should decisions be made that impact the department's access to the data needed to make decisions regarding a student's eligibility for AG services. Again, we invite you to submit any questions you may have via the "Submit A Question" link on the department's webpage: (<https://www.gcsnc.com/site/Default.aspx?PageID=2025>).