

Scotland County Schools
Local Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Plan
Effective 2022 - 2025

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Scotland County Schools has developed this local AIG plan based on the NC AIG Program Standards (adopted by SBE, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018 and revised 2021). These Standards serve as a statewide framework and guide LEAs to develop, coordinate and implement thoughtful and comprehensive AIG programs.

The NC AIG Program Standards encompass six principle standards with accompanying practices. These standards articulate the expectations for quality, comprehensive, and effective local AIG programs and relate to the categories related to NC's AIG legislation, Article 9B (N. C. G. S. 115C 150.5). These best practices help to clarify the standard, describe what an LEA should have in place, and guide LEAs to improve their programs.

As LEAs continue to transform their AIG Programs and align to the AIG Program Standards, LEAs participated in a self-assessment process of their local AIG program, which involved multiple stakeholders. The data gathered during this process guided LEAs in their development of this local AIG plan for 2022-2025. This local AIG plan has been approved by the LEA's board of Education and sent to NC DPI for comment.

For 2022-2025, Scotland County Schools local AIG plan is as follows:

As required by NC General Statutes, Article 9B, North Carolina Academically or Intellectually Gifted Program (AIG), Scotland County Schools has developed a plan for the provision of services to academically or intellectually gifted students. Scotland County Schools' vision for AIG students reflects the commitment to help all students reach their full potential regardless of family background, socioeconomic level, disabilities, or gender. The AIG program is built on a strong foundation of collaboration among parents, students, teachers, administrators, and community members to implement and achieve a strong program.

Scotland County Schools' goals for AIG students reflect the commitment to help ALL students reach their full potential. The AIG Program is built on a strong foundation of collaboration among parents, students, teachers, administration, and community members working together to implement and achieve the following program and student goals.

Scotland County Schools Vision & Mission for local AIG program:

Vision Statement: Scotland County School AIG Program vision, reflects the commitment to help all students reach their full potential regardless of family background, socioeconomic level, disabilities, or gender. The AIG program is built on a strong foundation of collaboration among parents, students, teachers, administrators, and community members to implement and achieve success. Our purpose is to prepare students to be productive citizens in a global society.

Mission Statement: Scotland County Schools AIG Program, identifies giftedness, nurtures students' talents, and inspires students to seek new knowledge. Through challenging programs students are provided opportunities to collaborate with peers, to ask profound questions about the past, current and future innovations and to be creative. We support the participation of all gifted learners of all backgrounds in the Scotland County Schools AIG program, to build and sustain a strong community.

Program Goals:

- Utilize a range of assessment instruments to recognize the students who are AIG within the Scotland County School System.
- Provide opportunities for enrichment for AIG learners.
- Provide an array of service options to meet the diverse needs of the students who are recognized as AIG in the Scotland County School System.
- Provide opportunities for talent development of high achieving students
- Provide on-going professional development opportunities to all Scotland County educators of AIG students.
- Prepare educational personnel to meet the diversity of AIG learners for the 21st Century, i.e. differentiation, problem-based learning and social-emotional needs.
- Create and extend opportunities for parents and community involvement with AIG learners. Monitor the success of services for AIG learners in meeting identified student needs. Evaluate the various components of the AIG program to facilitate continuous improvement. Collaborate with regular educators to improve the learning experience for all students.

Sources of funding for local AIG program (as of 2022)

State Funding	Local Funding	Grant Funding	Other Funding
\$307,914.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

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Standard 1: Student Identification

The LEA's student identification procedures for AIG are clear, equitable, and comprehensive and lead towards appropriate educational services.

Practice A

Develops both screening and referral processes that lead to AIG identification at all grade levels. Provides opportunities for every student to show their strengths and talents.

District Response: As required by NC General Statutes, Article 9B. Academically or Intellectually Gifted Students, Scotland County Schools has developed a plan for the provisions of services to academically or intellectually gifted students. Scotland County Schools' AIG program's purpose reflects the commitment to help all students reach their full potential regardless of family background, socioeconomic level, disabilities, or gender. The standards presented in Article 9B serve as a statewide framework and guide, to support LEA's with the development and implementation of a comprehensive AIG program.

The Scotland County School AIG Program employs multiple criteria for student identification that are effective in developing a comprehensive profile of each student. The AIG Assessment Committee indicates that there is evidence that the AIG identification procedures are equitable and multi-facet, providing several criteria to reveal the student's potential and giftedness. Each year the identification process is reviewed to determine if revisions need to occur in order to continue to provide equity in our program.

The screening and referral process is open for the entire school year as well as the summer, as needed. Students can be referred for AIG screening by teachers, principals, school counselors and parents.

The following steps outline the screening process for a student:

Students can be referred to the AIG lead facilitator for AIG screening through several avenues. The child's referral can come from a teacher, a principal, a school counselor, or a parent.

- All second grade students are tested using the CogAT screener, the spring of their second grade year. Based on the results, second grade students are referred for AIG screening, for potential placement
- Students who meet at least one of these parameters of the broad sweep are referred to the AIG District Office for testing in the areas of aptitude and achievement.
**(repeated from Practice B to include IDENTIFICATION)
- Referrals are automatically generated based on the prior year's (EOG) End of Grade score(s) during the Fall EOG sweep.
- Students with EOG state percentiles of 85% or higher are referred for AIG screening.

- Students with 98% or higher on any qualifying test are automatically placed in AIG and classified as IG (Intellectually Gifted).
- All students are tested with the CogAT in the spring of their second grade year. Based on results, second grade students are referred for AIG screening and potential placement.

The lead AIG facilitator convenes a meeting with the school's AIG committee and the student's parents/guardians to discuss the student's school performance and signs of giftedness. If the parent agrees to proceed with further analysis of the student's giftedness, the parent will sign the permission to test form, in case further testing is needed.

The GRS (Gifted Rating Scale) and TAB (Traits, Aptitude, and Behavior) are completed by the student's teacher(s). These documents rate certain observable behaviors that show support of gifted identification. It is recommended, if the teacher has not known the student for six months or longer, the GRS should be completed by the teacher who taught the student the previous school year. The purpose is to ensure the observations are completed without any biases and a true representation of what the students' academic abilities and giftedness are.

Observation - Rating Referral form	GRS	TAB
Observable Behaviors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual • Academic • Creativity • Artistic* • Leadership • Motivation <p>*not included in the observation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivation • Interests • Communication skills • Problem Solving ability • Memory • inquiry • Insight • Reasoning • Imagination/Creativity • Humor

If testing scores in the student's file do not support AIG placement, then additional testing is needed. The AIG Coordinator's office schedules additional testing in the form of the CogAT (Cognitive Abilities test) and/or the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills).

The AIG Coordinator's office compiles the data from the GRS, TAB, and testing and returns a completed FTAP (Frasier Talent Assessment Profile), to the school indicating if the student qualifies as gifted. To qualify for services in the academically gifted program, a student must meet the criteria in 3 of the 4 areas (Observation/Interest, Creativity/Motivation, Aptitude, and Achievement) on the FTAP.

After receiving completed FTAP, the school's AIG committee convenes another meeting with the parent to discuss the results of the screening and determine:

1. If AIG placement is needed: If a student is placed in AIG at the meeting, a Differentiated Education Plan (DEP) will be completed for the student.
2. If further testing should be conducted: If further testing is to be conducted, the child is referred to the school system's psychologist for an additional aptitude test (WISC-V) and/or an additional achievement test (Woodcock Johnson IV). The team then meets at a later date to review the additional testing results to determine if placement is needed.
3. If the student(s) will not be placed in AIG and no further testing is needed/nor requested.

Practice B

Establishes a process and criteria for AIG student identification at all grade levels that provides multiple opportunities to reveal a student's aptitude, achievement, or potential to achieve. The criteria may include both qualitative and quantitative data in order to develop a comprehensive learner profile.

District Response Scotland County Schools will conduct an annual broad based sweep of the general population of K-12 students at the beginning of the year (BOY), through the use of EOG test scores, aptitude and achievement assessments as well as the K-2 Math assessment (students scoring 95% correct or higher). Students who meet at least one of these parameters of the broad sweep are then referred to the AIG District Office for testing. These students are then provided advanced differentiation in small groups to meet their extended learning needs, in addition to extension opportunities through the Primary Education Thinking Skills (P.E.T.S) program.

- At 2nd grade, all students across the district participate in the CogAT assessment. This assessment serves as a universal screener to help identify students who are showing higher ability levels. These students are referred for gifted services or talent development efforts.
- In grades 3-12, Scotland County Schools will use the following indicators in various combinations to determine those students who are AG, IG, AI, and AM or AR and in need of differentiated educational services. To qualify for services in the academically gifted program, a student must meet the criteria in 3 of the 4 areas on the Frasier Talent Assessment Profile (FTAP)

AIG Labels	
AG	Academically Gifted in Reading and Math (88 %ile)
IG	Intellectually Gifted (98 %ile) in

	reading and math
AI	Academically/Intellectually Gifted in Reading or Math (98 %ile & 88 %ile or above on either)
AM	Academically Gifted in Math - 88 %ile or above
AR	Academically Gifted in Reading - 88 %ile or above

Student Achievement; to be eligible in this area, a student must have at least one of the two areas (reading or math) at or above 88%ile:

1. Student achievement assessments used are the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, The Woodcock Johnson IV, and the North Carolina End of Grade/End of Course exam. Students who have qualifying scores in either Reading or Math will be identified as AR or AM. A student with a qualifying score in both areas will be identified as AG.

2. Student Aptitude; to be eligible in this area, a student must have at least one of the three areas (verbal, quantitative, or Full Scale) scores at or above the 88 %ile. Student aptitude assessments used are the Cognitive Abilities test and the WISC-V. Students who have qualifying score in either Reading or Math will be identified as AR or AM. A student with a qualifying score in both areas or in full scale will be identified as AG. Students who score in the 98%ile or above (verbal, quantitative, or Full Scale) will be identified as Intellectually Gifted (IG) and will be automatically provided gifted services. These students will still receive the full battery of tests to determine if the student is academically and intellectually gifted, (AI). A student will receive a designation of AI, if he/she is 98% or higher in one area of the assessment (Math/Reading/Full Scale) and between 88%-97% in another area of the assessment (Math/Reading/Full Scale).

3. TAB (Traits, Aptitudes and Behaviors); to be eligible in this area, a student must have at least 3 of the 10 TAB observations, with a stanine score of 8-10.

4. GRS (Gifted Rating Scale); to be eligible for this area, a student must have at least 3 of the 5 areas of giftedness at or above the 88 %ile

Practice C

Ensures AIG screening, referral, and identification procedures respond to under-represented populations of the gifted and are responsive to LEA demographics. These populations include

students who are culturally/ethnically diverse, economically disadvantaged, English learners, highly gifted, and twice-exceptional.

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District Response: Between the 2015-16 school year and the 2018-2019 school year, SCS increased minority enrollment in AIG by 3%. Despite this increase over the duration of the 2016-2019 AIG plan, Scotland County Schools continues to seek opportunities for expansion and ways to increase minority representation even further to narrow the AIG identification gap between white and minority students. During the 2019 school year, Scotland County's student population was 46% African American, yet, AIG African American representation was 19.2%. Although not as large a discrepancy, Scotland Counties Native American population was 16%; however, Native American students made up 11.4% of SCS's AIG population. It was the goal of the 2019-2022 AIG plan for Scotland County's minority enrollment in the AIG program to mirror the district's overall minority enrollment. The current total number of students identified as AIG is 474, representing 9.1% of the student population.

AIG Population by Racial Group 2021-2022 School Year		
Race	Number of populations Identified	*Percent of total School District Population in the AIG Program
American Indian/Alaskan Native	54	1.03%
Asian	16	.31%
Black or African American	101	1.93%
Hispanic	18	0.34%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	.02%
Two or More	35	.67%

White	249	4.77%
Total	474	9.1%

*Scotland County Schools District student population - 5222

Source: NC School Report Card 2021-2022

During the 2020-2021 school year growth of the AIG student population was hampered due to the COVID19 pandemic. Some students were tested individually upon teacher and parent request, however there was no mass screening during the 2020-2021 school year. As a result of this data, Scotland County Schools continues to expand the search for under-represented students in innovative ways as a means of increasing/expanding diverse representation across subgroups. Scotland County Schools uses a variety of mass screening and referral procedures throughout the school year to assist in the identification of gifted students from diverse backgrounds.

Data is collected regarding student achievement, student aptitude as well as observations. The data comes from various sources and through various district wide screenings with the goal of increasing representation across diverse populations of students. Following research that achievement testing provides more opportunities for AIG identification within minority subgroups versus solely using ability testing for AIG placement, an additional achievement placement option, the use of EOG scores, was added to the 2016-2019 AIG plan. SCS now employs two ability test options and three achievement test options for placement. Due to all 3rd-10th grade students taking the EOG/EOC at the end of each school year, the addition of the EOG/EOC serves as another universal screener option, much like the use of the CogAT test for all 2nd grade students. Examples of SCS's broad spectrum screeners are bulleted below:

- CogAT - Cognitive Abilities Test
- IOWA/ITBS - Test of Basic Skills
- EOG / EOC Scores - End of Grade / End of Course

An annual aptitude universal screening of all second grade students occurs during the spring of each school year. This screening should take place at the end of students' 2nd grade year using the Cognitive Abilities Test as the screening tool (This stage of screening will continue as funding permits.) Each school's AIG Facilitator will be responsible for charting the scores of each second grade student on the appropriate form. These scores will be examined for potential AIG referral nominations.

An annual broad-based sweep of the general population grades 3-12 (e.g. a review of EOG and EOC test scores at the 85th percentile or above). By October 31 of each year the lead AIG Facilitator at each school should complete the SCS Tally Sheet, recording the names and scores of those students who scored at or above the 85th percentile on the EOG/EOC tests the previous year.

As a result of the broad sweeps and data review processes outlined above, the lead school-based AIG facilitator begins a referral-seeking process to request input from teachers, parents and others who may have knowledge of the student's learning needs. At this point, the lead AIG facilitator follows the referral and screening process cited in Standard I Section A and B.

To help expand understanding of giftedness and counter potential misconceptions about various subgroups, teachers are provided professional development in the areas of underserved gifted populations and identification of these students. The goal is to increase referrals of underserved students beyond the broad sweeps in 2nd grade and annually with the EOG/EOC. This professional development is delivered by the AIG coordinator or AIG facilitator school leads.

Scotland County School will continue to use the current referral and identification process to place the students in the AIG program for the 2022-2025. School year. Scotland County Schools will rely upon educational research as it relates to AIG and best practices.

Practice D

Monitors the screening, referral, and identification processes for consistent implementation across the LEA.

District Response: The AIG referral process is outlined in flowcharts available to all schools. These flowcharts are linked to the AIG department page on the SCS website. The AIG facilitators use the flowcharts consistently to guide their work. All charts and forms needed for the AIG referral process are provided to lead facilitators. In addition, they are available to them on the AIG department website.

Lead AIG Facilitators at each school are required to present an overview of the AIG referral and screening process to all teachers as part of their opening school year meetings by October 31st. Lead AIG facilitators in each building will receive a presentation with presentation notes from the AIG coordinator. The presentation will highlight the district's AIG plan and the comprehensive AIG services offered throughout the district. The presentation will also review the processes for AIG referrals. An AIG FAQ document for teachers and administrators will be distributed at the training by the school's Lead AIG facilitator.

The AIG Coordinator shares the screening, referral, and identification process with all administrators at the principal and assistant principal leadership meeting at the start of the school year.

The SCS AIG department maintains a database that outlines each student's place in the referral process, the progress of their referral in the system at both the district and school level, as well as whether the student was identified as AIG or not.

For all students referred for AIG screening, a folder is created at the district level that holds all of their AIG referral paperwork. This paperwork is monitored for compliance at each step in the referral process. If a student is placed in AIG, an AIG placement folder is created for the student to be placed in their cumulative folder. If a student does not place in AIG, an inactive file is created that holds their referral and screening paperwork within their cumulative file.

Practice E

Disseminates information regarding the screening, referral, and identification processes to school personnel, parents/ guardians, students, and the community-at-large.

District Response: Scotland County Schools AIG Program has a very clear and precise screening, referral and identification process that is been communicated to teachers, administration, parents and students through brochures, meetings and websites. AIG brochures are available in English and Spanish. Other languages will be translated as needed.

The AIG brochures are updated and available at each school. These brochures are also distributed through the Scotland County Schools Central office to community locations.

AIG information is available to parents during open houses and curriculum nights. Each school is required to hold an AIG parent information night within the first 4.5 weeks of school. This meeting is open to all interested parents. The AIG parent meeting highlights the referral and screening process as well as the school's AIG programming. Parents are informed about the difference between AIG identification vs Cluster Class placement process.

Scotland County Schools establishes Cluster classes for math and reading based upon data, reviewed annually. AIG students are placed in Cluster Class(es) with students who are mixed ability high achievers. Students who perform at a high academic level but are not AIG may be placed in the Cluster class. The Cluster Classes are supported with teachers who are AIG licensed. The AIG teacher is trained and supported with professional development to meet the needs of his/her students.

The district AIG plan, general AIG information, and AIG FAQs are located on the Scotland County School website. Each school's lead AIG facilitator presents AIG information to the school staff at the start of each school year, no later than October 31st, to include identification processes as well as traits of "underserved gifted" students. Lead AIG facilitators in each building will receive a presentation with presentation notes from the AIG coordinator. The purpose of the shared presentation is to provide a clear consistent message about the Scotland County School AIG program.

Practice F

Documents the evidence gathered and analyzed to support an AIG identification decision. This documentation is reviewed with parents/ guardians and maintained in student records.

District Response: A student's referral process is monitored at the district level through a paperwork tracking system to ensure that paperwork and needed testing is completed in a

timely manner. Student's assessment and AIG referral data are documented on the FTAP form (Fraser Talent and Assessment Profile).

The AIG facilitator in each building reviews the FTAP with the parents and AIG placement team during the student's placement/non-placement meeting. All dates for assessments and meetings are documented on the FTAP as well as in meeting notes. Parents are provided copies of the students' Differentiated Education Plan and Due Process. These materials remain in the student's cumulative folder. Students who do not place have an inactive file placed in the cumulative folder to document testing data and progression through the referral process.

Standard 2: Service Delivery within the Total School Community

The LEA provides a K-12 AIG program with an array of services by the total school community to meet the diverse academic, intellectual, social, and emotional needs of gifted learners. These services will develop students' strengths through intentional learning experiences in various domains that are not dependent on the students' demographic background or economic means.

Practice A

Delivers an AIG program with comprehensive services that address the academic and intellectual needs of gifted learners, across all grade levels and learning environments through collaboration with a variety of personnel. Services are aligned to students' advanced learning needs and AIG identification.

District Response: Scotland County Schools has an array of AIG services to meet the needs of the gifted learner. When redesigning programming for gifted learners, it is important that a full continuum of services be developed that allows for the development of gifted potential and addresses the needs of such special populations as gifted students with disabilities, underachievers, culturally diverse students, and the highly gifted.

Enrichment opportunities will be provided for students K-12 that offer critical thinking, problem solving, and encourage the growth of 21st century skills. Each school will be required to turn in an AIG plan by September 30th to the AIG Coordinator that outlines the AIG programming for the school year to include enrichment activities outside of the classroom. The plan will address programming that contains the following:

- Talent development for K-2 using the P.E.T.S curriculum
- Cluster class schedule for Math and Reading for those students identified as AIG in Math/Reading/Both as well as IG and AIG for grades 3-8.
- Students are placed in cluster classes based on their area of giftedness and/or their potential for extension and/or growth in the subject area. Students are served in both reading and math once identified no matter the area of identification in the Cluster Class. note* Administrators may elect to serve students according to the needs of the student in the area of non-placement.
- Services provided to AIG students are extended to all students in the cluster classes.
- Semester PBL (Project Based Learning) plans for grades 3-8 cluster classes

- High School Level Course schedule for grades 6-8 to include Math I and English I Honors, and AP
- Students who are AIG in both Math and Reading have the option to participate in CCP (Career and College Promise) courses entering grade 9.
- A budget for curriculum expenditures (novels, textbooks, technology), field trips, and after-school programs will be allocated if funding is available. As funding permits, funding will be provided to schools to supplement additional enrichment programs.

Differentiated Education Plans (DEP's) are provided to all AIG identified students' teachers, regardless of content area (Math, ELA, Social Studies or Science) by the lead AIG facilitator. The DEP's for each student identified is reviewed by the grade level teacher each academic year.

Middle school AIG students are asked to pursue a passion project and/or a challenge project based upon their interest. By requiring students to pursue a passion and/or a challenge project, Scotland County Schools fosters the development of future ready skills related to problem solving, creative-abstract thinking, perseverance, and leadership.

With the guidance of their AIG facilitator, students will participate in goal setting each semester. Students will review their semester goals each quarter to determine if they are meeting their goals or if adjustments need to be considered. Students will reflect on their academic and/or social/emotional goals. Students monitor their goals throughout the school year, as they work to reach the goals by the designated date.

Practice B

Delivers an AIG program with comprehensive services that address the social and emotional needs of gifted learners, across all grade levels and learning environments through collaboration with a variety of personnel based on student needs.

District Response: The students' needs should be addressed through service delivery where counselors and teachers collaborate in ensuring that students are making a positive adjustment within the school environment; including their relationships with teachers, administration, peers and self. The school and AIG personnel should work together to ensure support for the AIG students.

Each AIG student should have the opportunity to learn with others of similar interest and ability. It should be evident that AIG students are being challenged in the regular classroom as well as in the AIG program. Students who are twice-exceptional should have appropriate interventions in place provided by the AIG and EC teachers. The AIG lead teachers and the school counselors collaborate to provide appropriate professional development for support in understanding the emotional and social needs of AIG identified students. This professional development will encourage collaboration between support staff and classroom teachers in meeting the intellectual, social, and emotional needs of gifted learners.

In Scotland County Schools, there are several measures that are in place to address the social and emotional needs of AIG students. In grades 1-5, Second Step is implemented by the schools' counselors. Second Step is an emotional/social skills development program that addresses issues surrounding coping skills, controlling impulses, reactions to others, and understanding personal emotions.

A similar program, Overcoming Obstacles, is implemented at the middle school level.

Overcoming Obstacles addresses the following topics:

- Creating a positive environment
- Acquiring Core Skills
- Developing Related Skills
- Demonstrating Skills

During the 2022 school year, Scotland County Schools implemented the Rhithm (SEL screener). The program is used daily by grades K -12. Rhithm is a K-12 student and staff wellness check-in tool.

School counselors pull students for small groups related to determining if students are experiencing anxiety, bullying, stress, or grief. In addition to school counselors, Scotland County has school based mental health counselors that work one on one with students to address emotional and social stresses stemming from events that take place outside of the academic setting and within the school environment.

Practice C

Integrates and connects the AIG program and services with the district's priorities and resources through policy and practice.

District Response: Scotland County Schools offers opportunities for classroom teachers to obtain AIG certification in grades K-12. The premise behind this offering is to ensure that AIG cluster class services are delivered by AIG certified teachers as well as increase differentiation services in all classrooms and across all content areas beyond reading and math.

Scotland County Schools will maintain the AIG program alignment with Core Curriculum and instructional practices. AIG facilitators will meet three times per year to develop and adjust differentiated pacing guides in grades 3-8 in both Math and Reading. These pacing guides are connected to the Scotland County Schools adopted instructional practices and are available on the Scotland County Schools district website.

Practice D

Develops procedures for intentional, flexible grouping practices to facilitate the achievement and growth of AIG and other students with advanced learning needs.

District Response:**Grades K-2:**

Differentiated services may be delivered to students by modifying the content and/or pace of the instruction through the following grouping strategies:

- Differentiated small group instruction with advanced same-grade level peers
- Grade advancement by subject only
- Full Grade advancement
- P.E.T.S (Primary Education Thinking Skills) curriculum through whole group as well as differentiated small group instruction

Grades 3-8:

Differentiated services may be delivered to students by modifying the content and/or pace of instruction through the following grouping strategies:

- Cluster class placement with an AIG certified teacher for grades 3-7 ELA and/or Math.

Cluster classes in 8th grade will be served through Math I and English I. In order to provide a scholastically and emotionally supportive environment where both gifted as well as students with advanced learning needs are met, the following guidelines for student placement should be followed in the bulleted order as class space permits:

For Rising 3rd Grade:

- Gifted identified students and students who score 88% or higher on AGE percentile rank on Verbal, Quantitative, or Full Scale CoGat
- Students who score 88% on AGE percentile rank on Verbal, Quantitative, or Full Scale CoGat.
- Students who score 80 - 87% percentile on AGE percentile rank on Verbal, Quantitative, or Full Scale CoGat are considered for the cluster placement and/or the nurturing group.
- Students who score 80% or higher on LOCAL SCORES percentile rank on Verbal, Quantitative, or Full Scale CoGat

For Rising 4th - 7th Grade:

- Gifted identified Students and/or students with Level 5 on Math/ELA EOG
- Students with EOG scores that show state percentile of 80% or higher
- Students with an EVAAS projected state percentile of 80% or higher on the following year's EOG in Math and/or Reading
- Students with EOG scores that show **state** percentile of 75% or higher
- Students with an EVAAS projected **state** percentile of 75% or higher on the following year's EOG in Math and/or Reading

For Rising 8th Grade:

- Gifted identified students and/or students with Level 5 on Math 7/ELA 7 EOG
- Students with EOG scores that show state percentile of 88% or higher

- Students with an EVAAS projected state percentile of 80% or higher on the Math I or English I Exam
- Students with EOG scores that show state percentile of 75% or higher
- Students with an EVAAS projected state percentile of 75% or higher on the Math I or English I Exam

Grades 9-12:

Differentiated services may be delivered to students by modifying the content and/or pace of instruction through the following grouping strategies:

- Flexible Scheduling
- Sequential Course Acceleration Subject Grouping
- Course Skipping (Course Demonstrated Mastery)
- Course Acceleration Online Courses (NCVPS)
- Independent Study Dual Enrollment
- College and Career Promise Courses
- Early Graduation
- Early Admission Special Programs
- Early College
- Honors Courses
- Advanced Placement

All K-12 school AIG enrichment activities, documented in the school's annual AIG plan, will include all students enrolled in the cluster classes.

Practice E

Informs all teachers, school administrators, and support staff about delivery of differentiated services and instruction for AIG students, regulations related to gifted education, and the local AIG program and plan.

District Response: Scotland County Schools offers staff development regarding the AIG program to all teachers, school administrators and support staff at the beginning of each school year, no later than October 31st, which outlines the district's AIG programming. Lead AIG facilitators in each building will receive a presentation with presentation notes from the AIG coordinator. The presentation will highlight the district's AIG plan and the comprehensive AIG services offered throughout the district. The presentation will also review the processes for AIG referrals. An AIG FAQ document for teachers and administrators will be distributed at the training by the school's Lead AIG facilitator. AIG brochures are updated to reflect all programming changes in the current AIG plan.

Differentiated Education Plans (DEPS) are provided to all AIG identified students' teachers, regardless of content area (Math, ELA, Social Studies, Science) by the lead AIG facilitator. These documents provide a quick overview of the student's area of giftedness, the student's interests from the interest's survey, and the student's strengths and areas of needed growth.

The AIG coordinator leads biannual meetings for AIG lead facilitators to review their identification processes and procedures as well as share best practices. The AIG Coordinator

provides each lead AIG facilitator with a semester based checklist to ensure compliance with AIG plan expectations and deadlines.

The AIG district coordinator provides AIG plan compliance and expectation training for school administrators in September and May to ensure adherence to plan mandates and best practices with regards to student scheduling, teacher placement, differentiated instruction, and school enrichment opportunities.

Professional development sessions on differentiation, rigor, and the social/emotional needs of the gifted learner are offered throughout the school year during school based and district based professional development.

Practice F

Communicates among and between teachers and schools to ensure an effective continuation of K-12 services, especially at key transition points.

District Response: Scotland County Schools provides opportunities for vertical communication between the AIG teachers at each elementary and middle school. Differentiated Education Plan (DEP) transition meetings are held when students transition from 5th to 6th grade and when students transition from 8th to 9th grade. The meetings are initiated by the lead AIG facilitator at each school. The facilitator reaches out to parents to discuss each AIG student's strengths and needs. The forms are completed in the entirety once the students transition from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school. All transition meetings should occur at the new home school by Oct 15 of each school year.

Prior to a student's transition to the new school, elementary or middle school AIG facilitators will document the 5th or 8th grade child's strengths and needs on the Transition year DEP (DEP-M for Elementary and DEP-H for Middle School). At the start of the following school year, the Middle School or High School AIG facilitator should meet with the 6th or 9th grade parents to review the prior school's comments and review the AIG services that will be offered during the new grade span (6-8 or 9-12). Students in 5th grade and students in 8th grade will be offered the opportunity to visit their respective middle school and high school as they transition to the next grade span.

For non-transition years, students' DEPs should be reviewed annually during the spring, parent/teacher conferences to note any changes that might need to occur in the DEP based on the students' performance during the school year.

Differentiated Education Plans (DEP's) are provided to all AIG identified students' teachers, regardless of content area (Math, ELA, Social Studies, Science) by the lead AIG facilitator.

Practice G

Develops policies and procedures for a variety of acceleration opportunities, including compacted content, Credit by Demonstrated Mastery, dual enrollment, subject and/or grade acceleration.

District Response: For early entry into kindergarten, students are eligible for placement under the following combinations of conditions:

Student Aptitude: The student is advanced in academic and social development and scores at the 98th percentile on a standard individual test of intelligence such as the Stanford-Binet, the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, the Kaufman Anderson, or any other comparable test administered by a licensed psychologist.

Achievement: The student is functioning two to three years beyond the child's peers. The student scores at the 98th percentile on either reading or mathematics on a standard test of achievement such as the Metropolitan Readiness Test, the Stanford Early School Achievement Test, the Mini Battery of Achievement, the Woodcock-Johnson, the Test of Early Mathematics Ability (TEMA), the Test of Early Reading Ability (TERA), or any other comparable test administered by a licensed psychologist. A member of the psychologist's professional staff, or a professional educator who is trained in the use of the instrument and who has no conflict of interest in the outcome of the assessment may assess the student to determine placement.

Performance: The student is able to perform tasks well above age peers as evidenced by behaviors in one or more areas such as independent reading, problem solving skills, advanced vocabulary, and some writing fluency. The parent shall submit a sample of the child's work that shows outstanding examples of ability in any area including, but not limited to, art, mathematics, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, or social interactions. The principal may also require a teacher to complete an informal reading assessment of the student.

Observable Student Behavior/Student Interest: The student demonstrates social and developmental maturity sufficient to participate in a structured setting for a full school day. The student is capable of following verbal instructions and functioning independently within a group. The parent shall provide two recommendation letters with specific documentation of physical and social maturity from preschool teachers, child care workers, pediatricians, or others who have direct knowledge of the child. Useful documentation checklists include the California Preschool Competency Scale, the Harrison Scale, or any other comparable scale of early social development.

Motivation/Student Interest: The principal or principal's designee shall conduct an informal interview with the student and a more structured interview with the parent to determine if the student displays a thirst for knowledge and seeks new and challenging learning situations.

For grades 1-8, subject acceleration or full grade advancement is used as a service option for students who require this differentiation. The decision to implement either full or partial acceleration is a school based decision. Students are eligible for acceleration based on the following factors:

- Teacher letter of recommendation with the endorsement of the principal noting social and emotional maturity.
- Advanced performance in core areas documented by EOG scores at 95%ile or above in all test core areas. (Grades 3-8 only)
- Aptitude of at least two standard deviations above the mean.

Achievement in all core content areas at 95%ile or above using an individual standardized assessment current within the year.

Resources and support are provided to administrators, teachers, and families to better understand acceleration options. When applicable and available, opportunities for distance or virtual learning off grade level will be offered to students who qualify for acceleration.

Compacting of both Math and English Language Arts is offered at the middle school level through the compacting of standards across grades 6-7. In order to offer high school courses, Math I and English I to is offered to 8th grade students.

For High School Credit Courses:

Credit by demonstrated mastery (CDM) is another option for students who can show that they have mastery of a course's content prior to actually taking the course. Credit by Demonstrated Mastery is the process by which Scotland County Schools, based upon a body-of-evidence, award a student credit in a particular course without requiring the student to complete classroom instruction for a certain amount of seat time. "Mastery" is defined as a student's command of course material at a level that demonstrates a deep understanding of the content standards and application of knowledge. Students shall demonstrate mastery through a multi-phase assessment, consisting of (1) a standard examination, which shall be the EOC/EOG where applicable, or a final exam developed locally and (2) an artifact which requires the student to apply knowledge and skills relevant to the content standards. (3) Scotland County Schools may request additional requirements, such as performance tasks. This multi-phase assessment process builds a body-of-evidence that allows a committee to determine if the student has a deep understanding of the standards for the course or subject area, as defined by the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, thereby earning credit for the course without experiencing it in the school setting.

Practice H

Develops mindsets, policies, and practices to promote equity and excellence by broadening access to advanced learning opportunities through a variety of intentional efforts, including talent development, at all grade levels.

District Response: Mindset development and implementation among administrators, teachers and students will require Scotland County schools to offer professional development that

addresses the importance of the implementation of mindset strategies, beliefs and how positive beliefs lead to success.

- Scotland County Schools will develop mindset policies and practices.
- Scotland County Schools will present positive mindset training that will promote equity and broaden access to advanced learning opportunities for teachers and students. Some of the topics of discussion may include:
 - How Foster a Growth Mindset in the Classroom
 - Growth Mindset and the Student Achievement connection
 - Building a Growth Mindset for Teachers
 - The Importance of Including Growth Mindset in Lesson Delivery
 - Growth Mindset in teaching Math and Science

Practice I

Enhances and further develops the needs, talents, and interests of AIG students through extra-curricular programming.

District Response: Many enrichment opportunities exist for academically or intellectually gifted learners, both within the school environment and through outside agencies. All schools, K-12, are required to turn in an enrichment plan by October 31st to the AIG Coordinator. This plan will describe the enrichment opportunities that will be offered to AIG students during the school year. These enrichment opportunities are interdisciplinary and meaningful. Furthermore, the opportunities provide venues and experiences that help grow the social and emotional needs of AIG students by providing appropriate challenges within an environment where students feel supported and safe to excel. These enrichment opportunities may include, but are not limited to:

- Beta Club
- Duke Talent Identification Program
- Governor's School*
- Math counts Team
- Odyssey of the Mind
- Oban Exchange Program
- Quiz Bowl Team
- Robotics
- Science Olympiad
- STEM
- Summer Ventures
- Enrichment Field Trips
- Learning Excursions
- Seminars
- College Visits
- Book Clubs
- Battle of the Books

New opportunities are continuously added that benefit the gifted student as well as the high achievers.

Standard 3: Differentiated Curriculum and Instruction

The LEA employs challenging, rigorous, and relevant curriculum and instruction to accommodate a range of academic, intellectual, social, and emotional needs of K-12 gifted learners.

Practice A

Adapts the NC Standard Course of Study (SCOS) K-12 to address a range of advanced ability levels in language arts, mathematics, and other content areas as appropriate through the use of differentiation strategies, including enrichment, extension, and acceleration.

District Response: Scotland County Schools will continue to support the Core Curriculum in the AIG curriculum and extend the content to provide in-depth studies, rigor and challenging content. Currently, the cluster programs at the elementary and middle school level have clearly defined curriculum goals that are aligned with the principles of differentiation and with the NC Standard Course of Study. In order to differentiate the NC-SCoS for the needs of AIG students, AIG certified teachers will convene each summer to support the district pacing guides, by adding resources and lesson plans with the needs of AIG students in mind. Each semester of the school year, AIG students in grades 3-8 will be required to participate in at least one Project Based Learning (PBL) project.

Scotland County Schools is 1:1 in grades 3-12 with all students having computers for school and personal use. This technology 1:1 initiative provides opportunities for a flipped classroom model whereby students can advance their understanding of content and curriculum individually and during their time outside of class. This flipped classroom model opens opportunities for greater differentiation during class time through project based learning, compacting of curriculum, extension projects and advanced instructor led in-class offerings. All K-12 schools will offer AIG enrichment programs that offer extension and acceleration opportunities for AIG students. Each school will be required to turn in an AIG enrichment plan by October 31st. to the district AIG Coordinator that outlines the AIG enrichment programming for the school year. The enrichment plan will address programming that begins with talent development and advanced differentiation opportunities for K-2, continues with cluster, advanced offerings, and enrichment services for 3-8, and concludes with AP, CCP, honors, and enrichment 9-12. As funding permits, funding will be provided to schools to supplement their enrichment programs.

Practice B

Employs diverse and effective instructional practices according to students' identified abilities, readiness, interests, and learning profiles to address a range of learning needs at all grade levels.

District Response: Scotland County Schools employs many effective instructional practices to address a range of learning needs. AIG certified teachers will participate in scheduled district planning sessions at all grade levels each year to create and share differentiated units

and lesson plans. These curriculum units will be differentiated for AIG students with novel studies, project based learning opportunities, student learning contracts, tiered assignments, assignment choice, computer based learning, and/or compacted/accelerated content. Monitoring of this differentiated instructional delivery within the classroom will be performed by the principal at each individual school across all grade levels. Principals use the district Walk-Through instrument to monitor in-class differentiation. As principals use the walkthrough tool, they are seeking evidence of differentiation within processes, products, and content. Students will be given interest surveys at the beginning of the school year by core content teachers. These interest surveys will help guide classroom activities and enrichment opportunities. All schools are required to submit a school based AIG differentiation plan that documents course scheduling and enrichment to the District AIG Coordinator.

Practice C

Incorporates a variety of evidence-based resources that enhance student learning.

District Response: Scotland County Schools provides teachers and students with a variety of research-based supplemental resources to support instruction within the gifted classroom. AIG facilitators identify research based resources needed to differentiate and extend their curriculum to meet the needs of their AIG students. With the identification of these resources, the AIG facilitators will make recommendations to the district for resource adoption and purchase. These resources are interwoven into accelerated pacing guides to extend curriculum opportunities for AIG students. As part of each school's AIG plan, AIG certified teachers have selected various research based resources such as William and Mary Units,

Jacob's Ladder, strategies and resources garnered from the annual state AIG conference, Primary Education Thinking Skills (P.E.T.S) curriculum for K -2, STEM project based learning units, Socratic seminars, Achieve the Core Units, and at least one PBL Envision Unit per semester.

Practice D

Fosters the development of future-ready skills including critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, curiosity, and leadership.

District Response: Scotland County Schools continuously increases the focus on the development of 21st century content and skills at an advanced level. Digital Integration Facilitators (DIF's) work with teachers to integrate technology with instruction as well as critical thinking skills, creativity, and leadership opportunities with project based learning. AIG students have the opportunity to participate in various in-school as well as enrichment opportunities that help develop 21st century skills. AIG students participate in a minimum of one PBL per semester which incorporates 21st century skills. CANVAS based modules are incorporated in the middle and high school AIG cluster classes to provide opportunities for project based learning and research that includes competencies in the areas of global awareness, critical thinking, financial literacy, and health literacy. Scotland County Schools fosters leadership skills during enrichment activities such as Beta Club and Student Council. Students have opportunities to grow their creative skills through STEAM, bi-annual county art

and music shows, and school based art and music programs. Students have the opportunity for real life experiences during job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, and career credential acquisition programs.

Students will be given interest surveys at the beginning of the school year by the classroom teachers. These interest surveys will help guide learning activities and enrichment opportunities. Students are asked to pursue a passion project (middle school only) and/or a challenge project based upon their interest. By requiring students to pursue a passion and/or a challenge project, Scotland County Schools fosters the development of future ready skills related to problem solving, creative-abstract thinking, perseverance, and leadership.

With the guidance of their AIG facilitator, students will participate in goal setting each semester, to allow students to reflect on their academic and/or social/emotional goals. The AIG facilitator will share with students their projected EOG scores, discuss their progress and goal setting. The AIG facilitator will meet with the AIG students at the beginning of each semester. Students will monitor their goals during each quarter within the semester, as they work to reach the goals.

Practice E

Uses on-going assessment, both formative and summative, to differentiate classroom curriculum and instruction and inform flexible grouping practices.

District Response: Following the district's accelerated pacing guides, AIG facilitators identify specific learning objectives that are to be covered during each quarter, and develop or identify the assessment tools that are appropriate to measure student success. These assessment tools may include: classroom assessments, and project based learning opportunities. Pacing guides and curriculum resources may then be adapted and modified based on the needs of the students as determined by the formative assessments.

Teachers will be provided professional development on how to create their own formative and summative assessments. Scotland County Schools will ensure teachers understand the differences between formative and summative assessments and how the assessments are used. Assessment allows both instructor and student to monitor progress and to work towards achieving learning objectives.

Teachers will also benefit from learning how to implement the use of rubrics for scoring or assessing learning. The rubric provides students explicit performance expectations for a given assignment or project. Scotland County Schools will provide teachers with the needed tools to understand rubric development, and when it is appropriate to use a rubric when assessing student work.

Practice F

Addresses the social and emotional needs of AIG students through effective curricular and instructional practices.

District Response: Scotland County Schools will provide training to regular education teachers on the social and emotional needs of the AIG students. School Counselors, AIG facilitators, and regular education teachers will work collaboratively to ensure AIG students are making a positive adjustment within their school environments. As needed, school counselors will pull AIG student support groups to work with AIG students on identified emotional needs. School counselors are available to pull students for small groups related to test anxiety, bullying, stress, or grief as needed. In addition to school counselors, Scotland County has school based mental health counselors that work one on one with students to address emotional and social stresses stemming from both the home and school environment.

Practice G

Cultivates and develops the potential of young (K-3) students with early intervention and talent development opportunities through purposeful and intentional differentiated curriculum and instruction.

District Response: Scotland County Schools is aware of the need to grow the potential of our K-3 population. SCS will focus on providing nurturing and developmental enrichment services to students showing potential for giftedness at an early age. Elementary teachers will receive professional development on the characteristics of the AIG student in order to identify and promote the potential of these students. The implementation of whole class talent development at the K-2 grades will address the needs of all SCS students in critical thinking and problem solving activities. District pacing guides at K-3 in reading and math will offer talent development enrichment opportunities based on quarterly standards.

For K-2, differentiated services may be delivered to students by modifying the content and/or pace of the instruction through the following grouping strategies:

- Differentiated small group instruction with advanced same-grade level peers
- Grade advancement by subject only
- Full Grade advancement
- P.E.T.S curriculum through whole group as well as differentiated small group instruction
- Jacobs Ladder Curriculum
- All students in grades K-2 are exposed to units in the P.E.T.S curriculum and based on interest and performance in the units are pulled in small groups for further enrichment to build skills with talent development at the forefront of the program.

For 3rd grade students, cluster classes are offered in the areas of Math and Reading where instruction is delivered by an AIG certified teacher and differentiated advanced curriculum units are used for instruction. These units may include: higher Lexile novel studies, advanced math content standards, and project based learning opportunities.

Practice H

Develops and implements differentiated curriculum and instruction that addresses the academic and intellectual needs of gifted learners, across all grade levels, through collaboration with a variety of personnel based on student needs.

District Response: Scotland County AIG teachers meet with other teachers and staff to develop and implement differentiated instruction for the gifted student. AIG teachers will work each summer during the district's C&I week on differentiated pacing guides. These differentiated pacing guides will contain standards based activities that offer opportunities for extension, enrichment, compacting, and acceleration of the curriculum. Best practices during PLCs encourage teachers across various disciplines to develop advanced learning opportunities for AIG students based on current classroom data.

DEP's are shared with all teachers regardless of content area. These documents highlight student strengths and areas of growth as well as the student's area of documented giftedness. The lead AIG facilitator of each school shares this information with AIG student's teachers to help bridge differentiation gaps between regular education and AIG certified teachers.

Differentiated instruction is evident when teachers:

- Offer students options to choose from in assignments or lesson plans.
- Provide multiple texts and types of learning materials.
- Utilize a variety of personalized learning methods and student assessments.
- Customize teaching to suit multiple forms of intelligence.

For differentiated instruction to be successful, teachers will clearly explain the learning goals and the criteria for success. Differentiated learning thrives in a classroom environment where students are working toward shared goals with a growth mindset. Teachers will identify and be responsive to student needs, creating a supportive classroom culture where students embrace differentiation for themselves and their peers.

Scotland County schools commits to ensuring AIG personnel, and other related instructional staff are provided the necessary resources to support student learning.

Practice I

Develops and documents a student plan that articulates the differentiated curriculum and instruction services that match the identified needs of the K-12 AIG student, such as a Differentiated Education Plan (DEP). This document is reviewed annually with parents/guardians to ensure effective programming, provide a continuum of services, and support school transitions.

District Response: All AIG students are initially placed in the AIG program when an initial DEP meeting is held. The matching of service options to student's needs should be based on criteria for placement specified for each option and the information collected about the student during the student search and nomination processes. The school system has the

responsibility of implementing a variety of student service options that address the needs of identified students. The DEP meeting consists of the parent/guardian, a teacher that works with the student, the lead AIG facilitator, the student (when appropriate) and a school administrator and/or school counselor. If a student is twice exceptional, an EC representative should be part of the DEP meeting with the purpose of aligning the DEP to the student's IEP.

The purpose of the DEP meeting is to discuss the student's strengths and needs as related to his/her academic performance and social/emotional needs. The committee makes placement decisions based on the discussions surrounding the student's strengths and needs related to learning environment modifications such as: AIG Classes for reading and/or math, grouping and subject advancement, dual enrollment, and/ or consultation. The discussions also include content modification possibilities such as: advanced content, computer-based instruction, curriculum compacting, differentiated instructional units, independent study, interdisciplinary/thematic units, individualized program, problem-based learning, and/or consultation. At transition years of 5th to 6th grade and 8th to 9th grade, a full committee meeting should be held by October 15th of the new school year at the receiving school. The full transition year process is highlighted in Standard 2e.

Gifted progress reports should be sent home with regular report cards each quarter to reflect the student's progress towards their goals; whether academic, social/emotional, or both. All AIG students are expected to participate in goal setting at the start of each quarter.

Standard 4: Personnel and Professional Development

The LEA recruits and retains highly qualified professionals and provides relevant and effective professional development concerning the diverse needs of gifted learners that is ongoing and comprehensive.

Practice A

Employs an AIG-licensed educator as lead coordinator to guide, plan, develop, implement, revise, and monitor the local AIG program and plan.

District Response: The AIG Coordinator oversees the AIG program in Scotland County. The AIG coordinator will hold AIG certification and/or participate in AIG ongoing professional development at the regional, state, and national level.

The AIG Coordinator's duties include:

With AIG teacher participation, the AIG Coordinator develops a comprehensive plan for delivery of AIG services within the district. The planning incorporates appropriate goals, implementation strategies, evaluation procedures and adequate timelines.

- Assists in monitoring DEP implementation in classrooms
- Observes instruction to provide differentiation feedback to school based administration Ensures compliance with state laws and rules
- Oversees the screening, referral, and identification processes at the district level.
Communicates effectively within the school system and community and may serve as

liaison between the school system and local, state and federal agencies and other related personnel when appropriate.

- Provides input along with the Finance Director in developing the program budget. Assists in maintaining accurate, up-to-date inventories and preparing records and reports
- Demonstrates professional ethics, shows evidence of planning and accomplishing professional growth objectives and applies leadership skills effectively
- Participates in professional development opportunities, including regional and other statewide meetings to support gifted programs
- Provides professional development and resources to engage AIG specialists in advanced learning methods and strategies

The AIG coordinator leads biannual meetings for AIG lead facilitators to review their identification processes and procedures as well as share best practices. The AIG Coordinator provides each lead AIG facilitator with a semester based checklist to ensure compliance with AIG plan expectations and deadlines.

The AIG coordinator provides AIG plan compliance and expectation training for school administrators in September and May to ensure adherence to plan mandates and best practices with regards to student scheduling, teacher placement, and school enrichment opportunities

Practice B

Engages AIG-licensed specialists in tasks that explicitly address the academic, intellectual, social and emotional needs of K-12 gifted learners.

District Response: SCS will service AIG identified students with an AIG certified teacher in reading and math at each school in grades 3 - 8. These certified facilitators serve students through core content areas and through enrichment opportunities outside of the classroom. Each school has one lead facilitator who, with their school principal, helps to ensure their building is in compliance with the district AIG plan.

All schools have an AIG facilitator that leads the AIG program in their building. This AIG facilitator that leads the following:

- The AIG referral process,
- DEP meetings, and
- AIG based professional development at their school site.

He/she may also pull AIG students for extension activities based on assessment needs and/or may co-teach with non-AIG certified teachers.

The high school has teachers certified as honors and AP teachers. The high school principal's designee is responsible for the DEPH's, AG25's and Differentiated Education Plan.

Practice C

Establishes specific and appropriate professional development requirements for all personnel involved in AIG programs and services, including classroom teachers, instructional specialists, student services personnel, and school administrators.

District Response: Scotland County Schools recognizes the need to give all of our employees a chance to receive AIG professional development locally. Scotland County Schools offers to financially support teachers who enroll at UNCP to acquire AIG add-on licensure. The program's focus is designed to provide teachers with the latest knowledge of theory and practice and to prepare highly trained teachers to utilize these theories and practices in working with AIG students. Furthermore, SCS will cover the cost of one attempt at the AIG praxis test for any teacher seeking AIG certification without course enrollment.

At the start of each school year, the AIG lead facilitator conducts beginning of year training on the AIG learner and the AIG identification process. The training may include, but are not limited to: identification in underrepresented gifted populations, characteristics of giftedness, and the social/emotional needs of the gifted. As funding allows, a cohort of 10-20 teachers across K-12 will attend the state AIG conference each school year. They will be expected to return to their buildings and offer professional development to their peers regarding best practices that they acquired at the conference.

AIG Plan compliance training takes place at the beginning of the school year for administrators during the principal and assistant principal district meetings.

The AIG coordinator leads biannual meetings for AIG lead facilitators to review their identification processes and procedures as well as share best practices. The AIG Coordinator provides each lead AIG facilitator with a semester based checklist to ensure compliance with AIG plan expectations and deadlines.

Practice D

Provides general education services by personnel who have earned an AIG add-on license or have met the LEA requirements for that position.

District Response: Scotland County Schools will provide the opportunity for regular education teachers to gain AIG licensure through UNC-P or the AIG Praxis Exam. Either an AIG certified teacher or the AIG lead teacher provides AIG core content services through the district's cluster model in Reading and Math in grades 3-8. Advanced content/High School credit courses are offered to 8th grade students for Math and Eng 1. Teachers at grades K-2, 9-12 and non-ELA/Math teachers are encouraged to pursue their AIG add-on licensure at district cost. When professional development day agendas allow, lead AIG facilitators offer training sessions on AIG differentiation, rigor, and AIG student social and emotional needs.

The AIG coordinator meets with K-8 principals and K-8 AIG facilitators in the late spring/early summer to share cluster class placement guiding practices as well as review teacher class rosters to ensure that AIG students are appropriately placed. AIG Cluster Class Guiding Practices are cited in Standard LLC.

Practice E

Develops strategies for the recruitment and retention of AIG-licensed professionals, including those of diverse backgrounds.

District Response: Scotland County Schools will seek to recruit teachers who are AIG-licensed, by attending job fairs at local and, state and out of state universities. Scotland County Schools will highlight all the benefits and perk awards if selected as the school district to begin a professional career. Scotland County Schools also recruits AIG teachers within the school district. SCS's offers support for teachers who show an interest in becoming AIG certified, through the partnership with UNC-Pembroke. Teachers are allowed to participate in the AIG – licensure program provided by UNC-P and/or pass the AIG praxis. At the completion of each course and/or passing the Praxis, Scotland County Schools will reimburse teachers who successfully receive the passing grade(s) and/or scores.

Practice F

Provides focused professional learning opportunities to realize equity and excellence in gifted education including changing mindsets, policies, and practices.

District Response: Scotland County Schools will be intentional and provide professional development opportunities that support equity and excellence in the gifted education program. Those learning focused opportunities will be presented by the AIG Coordinator, building a deeper understanding of the growth mindset.

Practice G

Aligns professional development opportunities with local AIG program goals, other district initiatives, and best practices in gifted education with opportunities to refine applications of professional learning.

District Response: In addition to training for those teachers who provide direct services to identified AIG students, Scotland County Schools strives to maintain a cadre of regular classroom teachers who are knowledgeable about the characteristics of gifted learners and the strategies for the appropriate instruction of these students. The district's lesson planning format requires differentiated lesson activities as well as a focus on rigor. Teachers across all content areas participate in school based and district wide PLCs where planning lessons with a focus on rigor is required. Numerous district and school based professional development sessions are offered on, but not limited to, the following topics/areas:

- Social and Emotional Needs of the Gifted Learner
- Characteristics of the Underachieving Gifted Learner
- Rigor and Differentiation
- Research Based Lesson Planning Strategies

- Writing across the curriculum
- Data Driven Instruction
- Small Group Differentiated Instruction
- Technology Integration
- Flipped Classrooms
- MTSS and Research Based Interventions
- Project Based Learning
- Content Standards
- Robotics

Non-ELA and Non-Math teachers of AIG students in grades K-12, who do not hold AIG certification, are encouraged to become AIG certified. Advanced Placement teachers receive additional training through College Board sponsored programs.

Standard 5: Partnerships

The LEA ensures ongoing and meaningful participation of stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the local AIG program to develop strong partnerships.

Practice A

Develops intentional, two-way partnerships with parents/ guardians to support the following needs of AIG students:

- Academic and intellectual
- Social and emotional

District Response: To continue increasing community understanding of the AIG program, the district will update AIG brochures, post AIG information on the district website as well as on each school website and hold informational meetings at each school for students, parents/guardians, and administrators. Scotland County will seek to form ongoing, consistent partnerships with community agencies and institutes of higher learning to support AIG learners and AIG services both inside and outside the classroom setting. Each school will be required to create an AIG parent advisory committee and hold at a minimum of one meeting per year to garner feedback from parents regarding their school's implementation of the district's AIG plan. This meeting should take place no later than April 15th. This information will be shared with the district AIG coordinator.

Practice B

Partners with community stakeholders, such as institutions of higher education, local business and industry partners, and others to enhance and support the local AIG programs and services.

District Response: Scotland County Schools Community Partners include UNCP, RCC, & Scotland County Health Care.

The AIG plan is located on the SCS district website and on each school's website to ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to have access to the AIG Plan. The AIG brochure is

updated with the current AIG plan programming. A digital version of the AIG brochure along with a FAQ document is available on the district's website.

It is the responsibility of the school principal, the AIG Facilitator and the classroom teacher to provide information to parents concerning the academically or intellectually gifted referral process for students and the program description at each level of schooling.

At the beginning of each year, the AIG elementary school-based facilitator should coordinate the notification of all parents of second through fifth graders of the AIG referral process and program descriptions. This notification can be done via a letter and a brochure sent to parents at the beginning of the year and/or an AIG parent information night.

Once the testing cycle is completed for a referred student, the AIG Facilitator and the student's classroom teacher will meet with the parent to interpret test results and develop the educational plan for the appropriate services if needed.

The AIG Facilitators from receiving school will coordinate a parent orientation meeting at the beginning of sixth and ninth grades. The purpose of this meeting is to inform parents of the service options available to students at the next level of their academic journey. In each building, the AIG lead facilitator will create a monthly newsletter informing parents of AIG related information for their particular school as well as the district.

Scotland County Schools will form ongoing, consistent partnerships with businesses, community agencies and institutes of higher learning to support AIG learners and AIG services both inside and outside of the classroom setting. Our goal is to connect classrooms to real-world problems and foster cross-sector partnerships for collaborative learning. SCS will continue to engage in the partnership solidified with the UNC-Pembroke's AIG licensure program. SCS will also continue to maximize resources and contacts through CTE for Career Pathways and Readiness.

Practice C

Establishes and utilizes an advisory group to develop, implement, monitor, and revise the local AIG program and plan. This advisory group is representative of the diverse populations of the district and is at least composed of community members, AIG parents/guardians, AIG teachers, and other instructional and support staff.

District Response: The local AIG plan was developed through an advisory group. Principals, AIG facilitators, School Board members, parents, and Curriculum and Instruction staff were brought together to provide feedback on the district's AIG plan. Members of the AIG advisory group were chosen based on their representation of the diverse AIG learners in our school district. Parent representation on the committee included parents from our underrepresented AIG student body. Principals were chosen based on schools with both high and low AIG enrollments. The AIG advisory group met to review the AIG standards and provide feedback on Scotland County's plan to address the standards. This same AIG

advisory group will be called upon by the AIG coordinator to help monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the district's AIG plan.

The AIG parent advisory committee will meet to address AIG programming and parent feedback. This feedback will be shared with the district AIG coordinator. Representation of at least one parent per school is sought for the district advisory team which is made up of parents, AIG facilitators, principals, C&I staff, school board members, and community partners. The district advisory team will be called to meet, as needed, to discuss concerns shared from the school level that impact the district as a whole as well as during AIG plan writing.

A copy of the new AIG plan and updates will be distributed to all schools and administrators. Administrators and teachers receive training on the AIG plan as part of opening school year professional development. This training will help expand their understanding and knowledge of the plan to further grow their school based advisory board and its efforts.

The lead AIG facilitator in each building will hold an "AIG Council" of all AIG certified teachers in the building bi-annually, or as needed, to discuss and reflect on AIG programming in their building. Schools will inform stakeholders about the AIG parent advisory committee and ask for volunteer members during open house, parent nights, and in newsletters.

Practice D

Informs all students, parents/guardians, and the community of the following:

- Local AIG Plan
- Local AIG program services
- Policies relating to advanced learning and gifted education
- Ways to access opportunities available to AIG students

Communication is ongoing and responds to the diverse language needs of the community.

District Response: Scotland County Schools' population is becoming more diverse each year. There is a greater need to provide all forms, letters and information in other languages. It will be a focus for the district to have all the appropriate information in native languages for parents of ESL students. The AIG brochure will be made available in Spanish for Spanish speaking families. AIG newsletters, forms, and pertinent information will be translated, as needed, to native languages of ESL students and families who are in the identification process.

Standard 6: Program Accountability

The LEA implements, monitors, and evaluates the local AIG program and plan to ensure that all programs and services are effective in meeting the diverse academic, intellectual, social, and emotional needs of gifted learners.

Practice A

Develops a written AIG plan to describe the local AIG program, in accordance with state legislation and SBE policy (N.C.G.S. 115C-150.5-.8 {Article 9B}), which has been approved by the local board of education and sent to SBE/DPI for review and comment.

District Response: Scotland County Schools maintains a local AIG plan in accordance with state legislation and policy which is reviewed and revised every three years. Using the North Carolina Academically or Intellectually Gifted Program Standards (State Board of Education Policy ACIG-000 – June 2021) and Article 9B N.C.G.S. 115C-150.5-.8. Scotland County Schools has written plan that reflects the statewide framework for quality AIG programming, the 2018-2023 DPS Strategic Plan, and the Office of Advanced Academics Priorities, which include:

- Strengthening equity in academic pursuit that focuses on the individualized need of the student (identified and nurtured),
- Providing high-quality professional learning opportunities and implementation evidence that focus on supports for student learning and ensures program fidelity, and
- Increasing program outreach which enhance collaboration and communication with all stakeholders

The local AIG plan was developed through an advisory group of Principals, AIG facilitators, parents and Curriculum and Instruction staff were brought together to provide feedback on the district's AIG plan. Members of the AIG advisory group were chosen based on their representation of the diverse AIG learners in our school district. Parent representation on the committee included parents from our underrepresented AIG student body. Principals were chosen based on schools with both high and low AIG enrollments. The AIG advisory group met to review the AIG standards and provide feedback on Scotland County's plan to address the standards.

The AIG advisory group's suggestions for edits to the prior AIG plan, and AIG student enrollment and assessment data, the AIG coordinator made edits to the prior AIG plan to match the data needs and stakeholder suggestions (2019 -2022). This new draft of the plan was presented to the AIG advisory board, the district principals, the curriculum and instruction department, and the district leadership cabinet. Based on feedback provided by these various stakeholder groups, additional final edits were made to the AIG plan. After all feedback was garnered and edits were made.

Practice B

Monitors the implementation of the local AIG program and plans in accordance with current legislation and state policies to ensure fidelity of implementation for all AIG program components.

District Response: Scotland County Schools continues to implement the School Board

approved AIG plan as well as monitor for areas that need to be improved. Monitoring of the plan occurs through the following:

- Beginning of the year meetings with lead AIG facilitators to clarify their duties and responsibilities
- Annual Approval of district and school site AIG budgets
- School based meetings with all AIG certified teachers
- Annual review of district AIG differentiation plans for instruction
- Annual review of school based AIG plans
- Biannual meetings with school administration regarding AIG student scheduling, curriculum, and enrichment opportunities
- Semester AIG plan compliance checklists turned in to AIG coordinator by all lead school based AIG facilitators and principals
- AIG coordinator's attendance at state AIG meetings to learn policy updates
- Disaggregation of school walkthrough data for instructional trends in cluster classrooms

Practice C

Develops and monitors a budget using allotted state funds, and local funds if applicable, to address the needs of the local AIG plan in accordance with state policy.

District Response: Scotland County Schools uses the AIG State Funding appropriately for administration of the local AIG program. All the funding received is used for the hiring of AIG teachers to serve the students, providing AIG based professional staff development, approved enrichment opportunities for students and for purchasing materials for the AIG program.

To ensure enough funding is provided per school year it is suggested that each school receive \$1000 per cluster class at the elementary and middle schools. The funding will be used for AIG enrichment, supplies, field trips, teacher resources and teacher/student selected projects (middle school). Our previous plan allocated only \$1500. Per School. The funding previously provided, did not adequately fund AIG program, nor did it equitably support students in the AIG program as well as non-AIG students included in the cluster grouping.

Scotland High School , SEarCH and Shaw AIG students are not placed in cluster classes, therefore it is not necessary to provide a dollar amount per class. Scotland County Schools will financially support the AIG high schools students, once the AIG headcount is determined each school year. The suggested dollar amount per student is \$35.00. (Ex. SHS AIG student headcount for 2021-2022 is 166 students. The dollar amount to support the AIG program at the SHS would be: $166 \times \$35 = \5810). The funding source will be used to support AIG activities and needs (field trips /college visits), guest speakers, support with class projects and curriculum materials etc.

Practice D

Maintains and analyzes multiple sources of student achievement and growth data, as well as

annual drop-out data for AIG students. Data is disaggregated to recognize patterns and trends over time and inform mindsets, policies, and practices for equity and excellence.

District Response: Scotland County Schools' AIG program has always gathered and analyzed performance data on AIG students. This information will continue to be used to improve the AIG program at the individual schools as well as in the district. Student data is analyzed at quarterly school and district based planning sessions to inform changes in instruction. AIG cohort performance and growth data is disaggregated by the AIG coordinator with the assistance of the district's Accountability department. This data is shared with district and school leadership teams to help inform curriculum and scheduling decisions. Scotland County Schools will use student and district data to develop Differentiated Education Plans for each identified student. Dropout data will be reviewed through quarterly PowerSchool reports. Trends will be addressed at school sites and across the district if noted.

Practice E

Maintains and analyzes multiple data sources focused on the referral, identification, services, and retention of students within the local AIG program to ensure that students' racial, ethnic, economic, or other demographic factors, including other exceptionalities and language differences, do not reduce their likelihood of access to and participation in gifted education.

District Response: Scotland County Schools reviews data from various resources to ensure students are provided an opportunity to participate in the AIG program. Multiple data sources are required to provide opportunities for all students without any biases.

The data sources considered are:

- BOY
- MOY
- CogAt
- EOG
- GRS*

Scotland County Schools collects data as the students are identified as academically or intellectually gifted. Referral and placement data by race, ethnicity, and economic status is collected at each AIG headcount (Fall and Spring). This data is analyzed for trends across schools to ensure equity in referral and placement. Conversations are held and action plans are developed with school administrators whose schools show inequitable trends. Students who show potential for gifted identification are identified throughout the year and monitored by their classroom teachers and the school's AIG facilitator for referral.

These processes help to ensure that the district's identification process is inclusive and encourages diversity. Students who are not identified as AIG through the referral process, but are identified as high performing, will receive nurturing services through our academic cluster services and talent development enrichment opportunities.

Practice F

Maintains and utilizes current data regarding the credentials of personnel serving K-12 AIG students to align with the goals and strategies outlined in the local AIG plan.

District Response Scotland County Schools' personnel office and EC department keep current licensure and professional development information for each employee. All students in grades 3-8 AIG cluster classes are instructed by an employee that is certified or enrolled in AIG licensure classes or is served by the AIG facilitator through inclusion or pull-out groups. Teachers that teach advanced content courses, honors courses, or AP courses, may not have AIG certification; however, they have district continuing education credits in rigorous instruction, differentiation in the classroom, technology integration, and data driven instruction.

Practice G

Elicits regular feedback from students, parents/guardians, families, teachers, and other stakeholders regarding the implementation and effectiveness of the local AIG program.

District Response: School based advisory groups composed of teachers, administrators, parents and community members will meet annually to discuss the progress of the AIG plan. Input from school based advisory groups will be shared with the AIG Coordinator. As school-based data and input warrants, the AIG coordinator may call the AIG district advisory group to meet to discuss ideas, concerns, or suggestions for the district's AIG plan.

Practice H

Facilitates a comprehensive evaluation of the local AIG program utilizing multiple sources of data to revise the local AIG plan every three years.

District Response: The AIG Coordinator annually reviews stakeholder feedback (school based advisory group feedback and school based surveys), AIG teacher certification numbers, AIG subgroup assessment data, and subgroup referral/identification data to suggest appropriate AIG plan changes to the SCS school board. As data analysis warrants, the AIG Coordinator may call the AIG district advisory group to meet to discuss ideas, concerns, or suggestions for the district's AIG plan as a precursor to presenting plan changes to the SCS school board.

Referral and placement data by race, ethnicity, and economic status is collected at each AIG headcount (Fall and Spring). This data is analyzed for trends across schools to ensure equity in referral and placement. Conversations are held and action plans created with school administrators whose schools show unequitable trends. Special consideration is given to the DPI review comments. SCS will continue to review and revise the AIG program throughout the year or whenever a need is obvious.

Practice I

Shares all data from local AIG program evaluation with school and district personnel, students, parents/guardians, families, and other community stakeholders.

District Response: Scotland County Schools gathers data from the previous evaluation of the AIG plan and communicates the information to the administration. Schools conduct surveys and the results are shared with the AIG Coordinator. All data surrounding the evaluation of the AIG plan is shared with the School Board in an open forum.

All schools share updates to the AIG plan during their school's AIG parent information session at the start of the school year.

Practice J

Safeguards the rights of all AIG students and their parents/guardians through established written policies, procedures, and practices. The LEA plan includes: informed consent regarding identification and placement, reassessment procedures, transfers from other LEAs, and procedures for resolving disagreements.

District Response: The identification process is used to document a student's eligibility for AIG services based on the information collected during the student search and nomination process. Within 10 school days of receiving the Summary of Evaluation results (AIG-S) and the completed Frasier Talent Assessment Profile, known as the F-TAP (AIG-E), the school site AIG Facilitator issues an Invitation to Conference (AIG-I) to the parents / guardian.

The school site AIG committee (consisting of the AIG Facilitator, the student's classroom teacher(s), and an administrator), along with the parents / guardian, will examine the F-TAP to determine eligibility.

- To qualify for services in the gifted program, a student must meet the criteria in 3 of the 4 areas on the FTAP.
TAB (Traits, Aptitudes and Behaviors)
- To be eligible in this area, a student must have at least 3 of the 10 traits, aptitudes and behaviors with a stanine score of 8 – 10. GRS (Gifted Rating Scale)
- To be eligible in this area, a student must have at least 3 of the 5 areas of giftedness at or above the 88%ile. Aptitude
- To be eligible in this area, a student must have at least one of the three areas (verbal, quantitative or Full Scale) scores at or above the 88%ile.