

DoDEA Gifted Rating Scale (9–12)
Please read prior to rating any students.

Dear Educator,

Gifted high school students are uniquely poised to take advantage of academic offerings, college and career counseling, and leadership opportunities. Identification of students for gifted program services often becomes a function of self-referral at this level. Students request advanced courses and other opportunities that match their potential and performance. However, some gifted students have never been identified for services and may benefit from recognition by a knowing educator. Students who exhibit gifted characteristics should be identified and counseled into appropriate courses, mentoring, counseling, and other experiences that match their needs.

Although most high school students are identified for gifted program services because of past participation or academic records, some may be located through a current analysis of behaviors within and outside the classroom. Some remarkable individuals have not yet participated in advanced curricular experiences. Some have been overlooked because their strengths and learning patterns show up in extracurricular activities or in behaviors that may seem less than appropriate in the classroom. They may question teachers and challenge their opinions. They may exhibit extreme political or social positions. Some may be overly focused on success and perfectionism. Gifted adolescents may be compliant or forceful, but the more important thing to consider is what they are revealing about their capabilities for deep, rich, and complex thought. If not identified, their need for challenges and their social and emotional vulnerabilities may be compromised. This is particularly true for youngsters with strong potential who are not finding correlating success in academic work. Although many gifted students exhibit strong academic performance, this is not always the case. Likewise, many bright, high-achieving students who are successful because of hard work and strong support systems do not require differentiation. Gifted program services are not a reward for good work and good behavior. Rather, the gifted program provides support and challenges for highly capable students whose needs are beyond the standard curriculum.

You play an important role in the identification of students who may have exceptional abilities. As a trained observer, you have significant information about the students in your classes. The High School Rating Scale is an instrument designed to help you notice students in your classes who may be exhibiting behaviors indicative of giftedness. The 15 characteristics on the rating scale are traits that have been documented in a number of research studies as characteristics of giftedness. Think about your students and the degree to which they exhibit behaviors that match characteristics of giftedness. Please take time to consider each of your students as you complete the rating scale. By focusing on a profile of each child's strengths, you will be more empowered to work with everyone's potential.

(Signature of Gifted Education Program Designee)

(Date)

DoDEA Gifted Rating Scale (9–12)

- Use this form to nominate students for gifted education services.
- For each student on your list, rate each characteristic on a 1–4 scale. Use the rating scale descriptors provided to select a rating.
- You may complete a rating scale on an individual student at any time.

1 = Typical for grade/age 2 = Above average for grade/age		3 = Quite advanced for grade/age 4 = Remarkable for grade/age (1 in 50)	
		Rating	Comment
1.	Demonstrates insight		
2.	Thrives on intellectual activity		
3.	Is persuasive; can influence others		
4.	Sustains concentration		
5.	Is widely informed		
6.	Enjoys interactions with adults		
7.	Experiments, explores, pursues ideas		
8.	Is concerned with justice, fairness		
9.	Has multiple and/or extended interests		
10.	Is self-motivated, goal-oriented, persistent		
11.	Exhibits expertise in one or more areas		
12.	Displays mature sense of humor		
13.	Uses subtleties of words, numbers, or symbols		
14.	Is resourceful, flexible		
15.	Is original, unconventional, and imaginative		
	TOTAL		

STUDENT _____ **GRADE** _____
EDUCATOR _____ **DATE** _____