



**Shelby County Schools**  
**Department of Exceptional Children and Health Services**

RE: Updates for the SCS CLUE Gifted Program  
Date: May 19, 2020

Dear Parent of a current third grade CLUE student,

During the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the top priorities for the Department of Exceptional Children and Health Services (DECHS) is to support the well-being of students and staff while maintaining services comparable to "normal school" operations. In a "normal" school year, third grade CLUE students would be tested for the gifted IEP before the start of their fourth grade year. However, due to school closings, the state had banned all face-to-face testing, a component that is a requirement for the process of obtaining a gifted IEP.

At this time, we have started the process of testing our current third grade CLUE students for the gifted IEP, as we have done in years past. While many have been completed, many have not yet begun the process. Because there is no method to the order in which students are sent through the comprehensive evaluation process, we believe that the most equitable way to address this unusual circumstance is to allow all current third graders to progress to 4<sup>th</sup> grade CLUE regardless of testing status.

This means that in 4<sup>th</sup> grade CLUE, some students will continue to receive a progress report from EasyIEP, and their parents will be invited to annual IEP meetings to create a formal educational plan. Some students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade CLUE will receive a local progress report both at mid-quarter and at the end of the quarter, and their parents will be able to ask for a parent-teacher conference at any time for the same level of support. All services in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade CLUE class will be the same, just as all services in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade CLUE are the same even when some students have an IEP and some do not have the IEP yet.

Students will remain in 4<sup>th</sup> grade CLUE for the duration of the school year. This will allow us ample time to test all students and address the needs of our CLUE students without having to rush this process during an already unstable time. After the first semester of the 2020-21 school year, we will reach out with a solid plan for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade school year for your student. As is expected now, to continue in 5<sup>th</sup> grade CLUE, the student would have to qualify for the gifted IEP.

As of today, all third grade CLUE students will be welcomed into fourth grade CLUE. If you decide that you no longer want your child pulled for CLUE in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, please reach out to your CLUE teacher as soon as possible or email us at [clue@scsk12.org](mailto:clue@scsk12.org).

Many thanks for your patience during this time.

In partnership,

Shelby County Schools  
CLUE Program Supervisor  
(901) 606-2415