

Emerging Scholars

Background

Williamsburg-James City County Schools utilizes the Emerging Scholars Program to provide opportunities for kindergarten through grade 5 students from traditionally underrepresented populations in gifted programs. These students include minority, economically disadvantaged, students with a disability, and English language learners.

Program History:

- Program was restructured in 2014
- Currently available in 8 elementary schools: Clara Byrd Baker, Rawls Byrd, JB Blayton, James River, Matthew Whaley, DJ Montague, Norge and Stonehouse
- Will be in all elementary schools in 2017-18

Who are the Emerging Scholars?

During kindergarten, all students take a universal screener to identify potential. Teachers work with the Coordinator of Gifted Services to identify students from the traditionally underrepresented populations who show potential but lack the 3 A's: Access, Affirmation or Advocates in the home.

Program participation has grown over the past three years:

- 2014-15: 17 participants
- 2015-16: 27 participants
- 2016-17: 56 participants

Program Components

Students work with gifted resource teachers on a multi-faceted curriculum that includes creative thinking activities, engineering and design challenges, chess, and other strategy games that help scholars build critical thinking and social skills. Gifted resource teachers introduce children's literature and help bring books into the homes. In addition, activities with parents include breakfasts and storytelling. The goal of these efforts is to build confidence and self-esteem while encouraging students to pursue the most rigorous course of study possible.

Students Served

Year	Students with a Disability	Economically Disadvantaged	Minority
2014-15	4	12	7
2015-16	6	19	13
2016-17	8	38	36

*These are duplicated numbers