



**To:** Gifted Education Coordinators, Gifted Cluster & Resource Teachers, School Counselors  
School Year 2023 - 2024

**RE:** Identified Gifted Students in Grades 4 and 5  
(Students with “at-risk” factors that could prohibit them from having opportunities to fully reach their existing academic potential are eligible for referral to this program.)

- Do you have at-risk children identified as academically gifted in your school?
- Do you think that these children would benefit from a residential summer enrichment camp and year-round advocacy program throughout their middle school years and beyond?

For qualified applicants, the **Jacob’s Ladder Enrichment Program** offers these opportunities at **no charge** to the child’s family other than a COMMITMENT to act in partnership with Jacob’s Ladder, your school, the student, and the home. Since 1991 this has proven to be a win-win project for all.

- **The vision** of Jacob’s Ladder is to offer a year-round enrichment and advocacy program, bolstered by a summer enrichment program, whereby middle school students receive support to foster their intellectual, social, emotional and physical development. Our high school advocacy program provides mentoring to assist with challenges, course selections, scholarship opportunities, and the college application process.
- **The mission** of Jacob’s Ladder is to aid and encourage intellectually gifted, at-risk middle school through high school students to reach their full potential and become leaders equipped to help others in similar economic and social situations.
- **Our goal** is to foster the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development of these children, to provide support and information to the family unit, and to offer guidance in planning for advanced educational opportunities.

Please see our website ([www.jladder.org](http://www.jladder.org)) for more information or call or e-mail for additional information.

**To submit a student referral to the Jacob’s Ladder program:**

- **Step 1:** Gifted Education Coordinators, Gifted Cluster & Resource Teachers, and School Counselors generate referrals for at-risk students identified as academically gifted (grade 5 and exceptionally strong grade 4).
- **Step 2:** Contact parent/guardian of child to discuss this opportunity and determine their commitment of support. Their involvement is crucial to the success of their child remaining in the program throughout the four-year cycle.
- **Step 3:** Call 804-758-0712 ASAP to let us know there is a prospective applicant from your school.
- **Step 4:** Have the parent/guardian complete the Jacob’s Ladder application IN BLUE OR BLACK INK; NO PENCIL and return it to the school. The referring source should then complete the School Information section of

the application. (Note: Please check to be sure the applicant has completed the student section on page 2 of the application.)

• **Step 5:** Please refer to the checklist below to include important documents BEFORE mailing or emailing the completed application to Jacob's Ladder.

- Applicant's Student Profile Sheet for Gifted Identification documentation
- Copies of any nationally standardized test scores which support gifted identification, such as the CogAT, OLSAT, NNAT, WISC, etc.
- Copy of recent report card
- Optional (but greatly appreciated) – Brief recommendation letter from the child's school advocate (Gifted Coordinator, Gifted Cluster or Resource Teacher, School Counselor, ESL teacher, etc.)
- Call to inform us of the application. Mail or email application and supporting documents to:  
Jacob's Ladder, Inc.  
P. O. Box 3  
Urbanna, VA 23175  
Phone: 804-758-0712  
email: [director@jladder.org](mailto:director@jladder.org)

Following the December 31, 2023 deadline, Jacob's Ladder will review applications which give us permission to:

- view the student's information
- schedule a school visit during February/March and interview the student separately with a school representative, then meet with the child's parent / guardian
- keep you posted after the selection committee has made admission decisions (usually by the end of April).

**IMPORTANT:**

**Please note: Jacob's Ladder does not accept applicants with known significant behavioral or emotional problems.**

Application Deadline: December 31, 2023

**FYI:** Children participating in Jacob's Ladder have come from the Greater Richmond community - Chesterfield/Henrico/Hanover/Richmond City, Petersburg, Norfolk/Portsmouth/Suffolk/Chesapeake areas, Charlottesville, Staunton, Waynesboro, Lexington, Buckingham, Caroline, Fluvanna, King & Queen, King William, Pittsylvania, Williamsburg, Yorktown, Northern Neck, and the Middle Peninsula.

Parents and Jacob's Ladder "Climbers" are willing to share their experiences in the program with interested parents or teachers.

Thank you!  
Catherine A. Coggeshall, Executive Director  
[director@jladder.org](mailto:director@jladder.org)

