Q: Why use behavior scales?

A: Behavior rating scales are based on a large body of research identifying behaviors associated with learners with gifts and talents. Asking teachers to nominate gifted students in the classroom might have an unconscious bias, but scales ask teachers to look at observable behaviors, not a preconception of the “gifted child.” Instruments have all been validated, and help create equity because the teachers see student progress compared to peers.

More traditional measures might miss kids with restricted opportunity to learn school related skills and knowledge, limited exposure to test format and method of assessing aptitude, limited English language skills, and twice-exceptionality.

Q: How does SIGS-2 Online work?

A: The second edition of the Scales for Identifying Gifted Students (SIGS-2) is designed to obtain educators’ or parents’ estimates of a student’s characteristics in the areas of general intellectual ability, language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, creativity, and leadership.

With SIGS-2 Online, teachers evaluate students in the online system, and the instrument will score the student. You can easily mass import school, user, and student records, and also easily export individual Student Summary Reports and/or School Summary Reports for simplified reporting. Student “seats” may be purchased and added to an administrator’s account in batches of 50 or 100, depending on the needs of the school.
**Q: What are seats?**

A: Each "seat" represents a student, so if your school or classroom wants to fill out the scales for 15 students, you would need 15 seats. Student seats may be purchased and added to an administrator’s account in batches of 50 or 100.

**Q: Can unused seats be carried to the next year? Q: What are seats?**

A: Yes, all unused seats are carried into the new school year as available new seats. On August 1 of each year, all used student seats are “locked.” The locked data may be used in reports or exported but may not be modified.

**Q: What does a typical workflow look like?**

A: Multiple user roles, each with a different function, are available for SIGS-2 Online: Administrators, Coordinators, and Teachers. The administrator role would typically be a district- or program-level administrator, the coordinator would be a building-level administrator or staff member, and the teacher would be an individual working directly with students.

The administrator adds schools and their coordinators. The coordinators (or administrator) are responsible for assigning students to teachers, scales to be rated, and the School Rating Scales (SRS) and/or the Home Rating Scales (HRS).

Teachers will receive an automatic email each time they are assigned students and scales to rate. Teachers rate each student for the subscales assigned to them by the coordinator and submit the ratings when complete.

**Q: How many users are allowed per license?**

A: An administrator may create as many schools, coordinators, and teachers as needed. Only students are limited by the number of seats purchased, and all unused seats are carried into the new school year.
Q: How are students evaluated?

A: A single student may be evaluated on any number of scales using the SRS, the HRS, or both. Multiple teachers can rate the same student on different scales, however multiple teachers cannot rate the same student on the same subscale.

For example, Teacher One rates the student on the mathematics subscale, and Teacher Two can rate the same student on one or more of the remaining scales. Teachers One and Two cannot both rate the student on the mathematics subscale.

Q: Can student ratings be changed after teachers have submitted them?

A: Administrators or coordinators may click the ‘Change Status’ checkbox to change a rating’s ‘Completed’ status to ‘In Progress’ status. This allows the teacher to make edits to a previously submitted rating.

Q: How are students added to SIGS-2 Online?

A: Administrators/Coordinators are responsible for adding students and assigning students to teachers. You can easily mass import school, user, and student records by using a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet saved as a Microsoft Excel XLSX file (see manual for instructions), or this can be done individually.

Q: Is it self-scoring?

A: The instrument will score the student, and this can be done as an individual student or a report for the whole school.

Q: Who can generate reports?

A: All users have the functionality to print individual Student Summary Forms by clicking on the link “Print Summary Form for this Student.” This link is found above the rating scale.

Administrators and coordinators can print the School Summary Report by clicking “Reports” in the top menu (the “Student Records” tab must be selected first to activate this tab) and selecting the school and school year for which the report should be printed.
Q: Will I get a copy of the results for each student? What kind of reporting is available?

A: Two reports for this online version are available:

(1) The individual Student Summary Form (includes the student’s demographic information, the student’s raw score for each of the rated scales on the SRS and/or the HRS, and standard scores and percentile ranks using both general and gifted norms), and

(2) the School Summary Report (contains a list of students in alphabetical order by grade and school for a selected academic school year, students’ raw scores, standard scores, and percentile ranks for all rated scales). Standard scores and percentile ranks can be derived using either general or gifted norms. (For more information about the normative sample, see the SIGS-2 technical manual.)

Q: Does the online tool have the Home Rating Scales available?

A: Yes, however these must be input by the teacher. Parents do not receive access to the online instrument. If the HRS is to be rated, coordinators will give teachers as many HRS forms as students to be rated. On the front of each form, coordinators will check the scales they want parents/guardians to rate. Teachers send the HRS forms home to the parents and request them to be completed and sent back to the teacher, who will input them into the SIGS Online system.

Q: Can I purchase the individual scales separately (e.g., just Mathematics or Science)?

A: No.

Q: Is there a Spanish version of the Scales?

A: Appendix E of the Examiner’s Manual offers a Spanish version of the Home Rating Scale that users could photocopy. There is not a Spanish version for SIGS-2 Online.

Q: Are the scales designed to be used with local or national norms?

A: SIGS-2 can be used with both.
Q: What systems are required to run SIGS-2 Online?

A: The online scoring and report system of the SIGS-2 works with all desktop web browsers, although pages may look slightly different depending on the browser. In order for the SIGS-2 to work properly, you must have “cookies” enabled.

Q: What domains should our school(s) add to safe senders?

A: In some cases, school firewalls can block emails from the Routledge support team. In case you experience any issues with your SIGS-2 Online and require technical support, you should add the following domains to your safe senders to ensure you receive responses to your support requests:

- @taylorfrancis.com (we use support@taylorfrancis.com)
- eBooksetup@taylorfrancis.com (for when sending invoices etc.)
- @taylorandfrancis.com (Support@taylorandfrancis.com)

Q: What data is being captured on students?

A: First/Last Name, Age, Grade, Gender, Ethnicity, Student Number

Q: How is student data used?

A: Student data is captured by the school only within their own database for their own internal use. Anonymized student data is used once every 10 years to produce the new national norms.

Q: Where is student data located? Is there a backup database?

A: Data is located on AWS (Amazon Web Services) cloud servers and is backed up by AWS.

Q: Is data encrypted?

A: Yes.
Q: Do you use or share the information for commercial purposes?
A: No.

Q: Do you provide the school with a method to retain control over their data?
A: Yes, you are responsible for updating or deleting information.

Q: What are your data retention and deletion policies for children’s personal information?
A: It is the school’s responsibility to retain or delete their own data. Routledge can delete data upon request, if needed.

Q: How do I purchase SIGS-2?
A: Print manuals and forms can be purchased using a credit card online at https://www.routledge.com/go/scales-for-identifying-gifted-students-sigs

To purchase SIGS-2 Online, email us at contactus@routledge.com or fill out the Contact Us form on the SIGS-2 webpage to be put in touch with a Routledge sales representative.