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| E – Special Programs: Gifted and Talented | **EHBB** |
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| Special Programs - 2025 |

South San Antonio ISD Gifted and Talented services are designed to provide an academically challenging education for learners who perform or show the potential to perform at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to other learners of the same age, experience, or environment and exhibit high performance capability in an intellectual or creative area and/or excel in a specific academic field.

The district offers a variety of learning experiences and opportunities for GT students in grades K-12 which meet the unique needs of our students.  These services include, but are not limited to, integrating depth and complexity into the curriculum, requiring advanced level products, performances & demonstrations, and allowing identified GT students the opportunity to work with other identified students.

The district will schedule a gifted and talented program awareness session for parents that provides an overview of the identification procedures and services for the program prior to beginning the screening and identification process during the first month of school.

Students may be referred for the gifted and talented program at any time by teachers, school counselors, parents, or other interested persons. (See EHBB EXHIBIT in Administrative Regulations)

The District shall provide assessment opportunities to complete the screening and identification process for referred students at least once per school year. CogAT screener for all kinder and third grade students and full battery of CogAT assessments for students referred to G/T during the Fall semester. Identification committee meeting held in January.

**Parental Consent**

The District shall obtain written parental consent before any special testing or individual assessment is conducted as part of the screening and identification process. All student information collected during the screening and identification process shall be an educational record. (See EXHIBIT EHBB-2 in Administrative Regulations)

**Identification Criteria**

The Board-approved program for the gifted and talented shall establish criteria to identify gifted and talented students. The criteria shall be specific to the state definition of gifted and talented and shall ensure the fair assessment of students with special needs, such as the culturally different, the economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities.

**Assessments**

Data collected through both objective and subjective assessments shall be measured against the criteria approved by the Board to determine individual eligibility for the program. Assessment tools may include, but are not limited to, the following: achievement tests, intelligence tests, creativity tests, behavioral checklists completed by teachers and parents, student/parent conferences, and available student work products.

**Selection**

A placement committee shall evaluate each referred student according to the established criteria and shall identify those students for whom placement in the gifted and talented program is the most appropriate educational setting. The committee shall be composed of at least three professional educators who have received training in the nature and needs of gifted students, as required by law.

The District shall provide written notification to parents of students who qualify for services through the District’s gifted and talented program. Participation in any program or services provided for gifted students shall be voluntary, and the District shall obtain written permission from the parents before placing a student in a gifted and talented program.

If the District reassesses students in the gifted and talented program, the reassessment shall be based on a student’s performance in response to services and shall occur no more than once in elementary grades, once in middle school grades, and once in high school grades.

**Transfer Students**

When a student identified as gifted by a previous school district enrolls in the District, the placement committee shall review the student’s records and conduct assessment procedures when necessary to determine if placement in the District’s program for gifted and talented students is appropriate.

**Furloughs**

The District may place on a furlough any student who is unable to maintain satisfactory performance or whose educational needs are not being met within the structure of the gifted and talented program. A furlough may be initiated by the District, the parent, or the student.

In accordance with the Board-approved program, a furlough shall be granted for specified reasons and for a specified period of time. At the end of a furlough, the student may reenter the gifted and talented program, be placed on another furlough, or be exited from the program.

**Exit Provisions**

The District shall monitor student performance in response to gifted and talented program services. If at any time the placement committee or a parent determines the program is not meeting the student’s educational needs, the committee shall meet with the parent and student before finalizing an exit decision.

**Appeals**

A parent, student, or educator may appeal any final decision of the placement committee regarding services in the gifted and talented program. Appeals shall be made first to the placement committee. Any subsequent appeals shall be made in accordance with Board Policy FNG(LOCAL) beginning at Level Two.

**Program Evaluation**

The District shall annually evaluate the effectiveness of the District’s gifted and talented program, and the results of the evaluation shall be used to modify and update the District and campus improvement plans. The District shall include parents in the evaluation process and shall share the information with Board members, administrators, teachers, school counselors, students in the gifted and talented program, and the community.

**Funding**

The District shall ensure that 100 percent of the state funds allocated through the Gifted and Talented (G&T) allotment are dedicated to supporting, providing, and enhancing the District’s gifted and talented program. All allowable expenditures shall be directly charged to the G&T allotment in accordance with Texas Education Agency (TEA) financial accountability and compliance guidelines.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish appropriate accounting procedures and internal controls to ensure proper use, and reporting of G&T allotment funds. These procedures shall guarantee alignment with TEA’s Financial Accountability System Resource Guide (FASRG) and any applicable state regulations.