

Counselor's Connection

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2018-2019 Gifted and Talented Identification Process

Spring Branch ISD provides a comprehensive continuum of services (K-12) that is responsive to the needs, interests, and abilities of gifted and talented students. The Gifted and Talented Program identifies and serves the special educational needs of students with advanced learning abilities in language arts/social studies, and/or mathematics/science.

Parents who would like to refer their child for screening must provide permission for assessment and complete a Parent Referral Form via online: <https://sbgifted.schoolmint.net>. Link will become active September 19, 2018. Please contact Ana Vazao, Counselor at ana.vazao@springbranchisd.com if you have any questions.

Completed Parent Referral Forms/application must be submitted online to Ana Vazao, Counselor, no later than October 22, 2018. Please note that no late referrals can be accepted due to timeline constraints.

Parents considering referring their child for screening are encouraged to attend the Parent Awareness Meetings on September 18th from 6:00 – 7:30 PM or September 20th at 11:30am to 1:00 pm. Both meetings will be held at the SBISD Administration Building. Parents may also view a power point explaining the characteristics of gifted students and the identification process by following the link below:

www.springbranchisd.com/instruc/adac/adac.htm

Important Information about the GT Identification Process

Planned Experiences

SBISD implements three standardized screening activities in every classroom K-5. These are short, educational activities that teachers will incorporate into their lesson plans. By doing the activities with all students, teachers will be screening all students for possible referral for the GT program. Regardless of performance on these activities, parents may refer their children for the GT program. The assessment of these activities will be combined into one measure to be included in the GT identification process.

Two-Step Process

SBISD has developed a two-step identification process to efficiently assess students' needs for the services provided by the Gifted and Talented Program. Level 1 is the first step of the process. Data in Level 1 of the process will be collected for every student referred for the GT program. This step includes collecting data from:

- students through the Planned Experiences mentioned above,
- teachers through a standardized behavioral inventory,

- and from parents through the parent inventory.

A student must have at least one score that meets the GT standard in Level 1 to continue in the identification process. Students who have no scores meeting the GT standard in Level 1 will not continue in the identification process and will not be tested.

Level 2 is the second step of the identification process. Level 2 includes the administration of nationally standardized, norm-referenced tests. This testing will take place during the school day. The district identification committee will review the data collected for all students who completed Level 2 of the process to determine which students' data indicate the need for GT services.

Honor Scores for Two Years

SBISD will honor test scores for two years, beginning in 1st grade. The publishers of standardized tests clearly indicate that the scores are representative of a student's ability for a two-year period. For this reason, we will honor a student's scores acquired through the GT identification process for two years. This does not include Kindergarten students. Students may be referred each year, but the previous year's test scores will be utilized.

2018-2019 GT Identification Process Timeline

Wednesday, September 12th – Friday, September 28th

Planned Experience Coordinators conduct all 3 Planned Experiences

Tuesday, September 18th, 6 - 7:30pm

Community GT Awareness Meeting at Admin Building / Board Room (**English ONLY**)

Wednesday, September 19th, 11 – 12:30pm

Community GT Awareness Meeting at Spring Woods MS (**Spanish ONLY**)

Wednesday, September 19th – Monday, October 22nd

Window open for parent referrals (School Mint)

Thursday, September 20th, 11am – 12:30pm

Community GT Awareness Meeting at Admin Building / Board Room (**English ONLY**)

Friday, November 9th

Counselors notify parents of Level 1 results

Monday, November 26th – Friday, December 14th

Window for Level 2 (CogAT) GT testing at campuses

Tuesday, February 19th

Counselors notify parents of Level 2 results

Monday, February 11th – Thursday, March, 28th (*tentative*)

Window for Level 3 GT testing (AAS)

Thursday, March 28th

Level 3 testing window closes and AAS notifies parents of Level 3 results

Monday, April 1st

Spring Branch Academic Institute (SBAI) application window opens

Monday, April 15th

Spring Branch Academic Institute (SBAI) application window closes

Thursday, April 18th

Spring Branch Academic Institute (SBAI) Lottery

Monday, April 29th

GT Appeals due to campus Counselors

Thursday, May 16th

District GT Appeals Committee meets

Wednesday, May 22nd

AAS notifies parents of Appeals results

Friday, May 24th

Last day of school

