

SHOULD I REFER?

GIFTED & TALENTED AWARENESS
PARENT INFORMATION

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AGENDA



What is Gifted?



What is the process for GT nomination and assessment?



How are GT students served in ILTexas?

WHAT IS GIFTED AND TALENTED (G/T)?

According to the Texas Education Code 29.121, gifted and talented refers to a child who performs or shows the potential of performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment. The child also exhibits an unusual capacity for leadership or high-performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area.

WHAT IS THE TEXAS STATE GOAL FOR G/T SERVICES?

The state's goal for G/T students is to ensure that those students who participate in G/T services demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication. G/T students develop innovative products and sophisticated performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are targeted to an audience outside the classroom.

WHAT IS ILTEXAS'S GOAL FOR G/T SERVICES?

International Leadership of Texas defines Gifted and Talented as any child or youth in grades K-12 who performs at, or shows the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment, and who:

1. Exhibits high performance capability in general intellectual ability; or
2. Excels in one or more specific academic fields: math, science, language arts, and/or social studies

WHAT ARE SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF A GIFTED CHILD?

- It is important to note that there are not one or two characteristics that an educator can point to in order to say that a student is gifted – it is a combination of characteristics inclusive but not limited to: highly curious, initiates projects, discusses things in detail, draws inferences and grasps underlying principles, highly creative, and extraordinary memory as compared to peers.

HOW ARE STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS G/T?

- Identification as G/T begins with a parent/guardian, teacher, counselor, administrator, or other interested persons referring a student for G/T testing. All referred students are screened for G/T services using data from several quantitative and qualitative assessments to identify students who exhibit potential and/or perform at levels significantly beyond the norm in areas of superior cognitive ability and/or specific academic achievement.

Initial
Referral

Parent
Referral,
Survey, or
Interview

Teacher
Referral,
Interview

Ability
Testing

Achievement
Testing
(3-12)

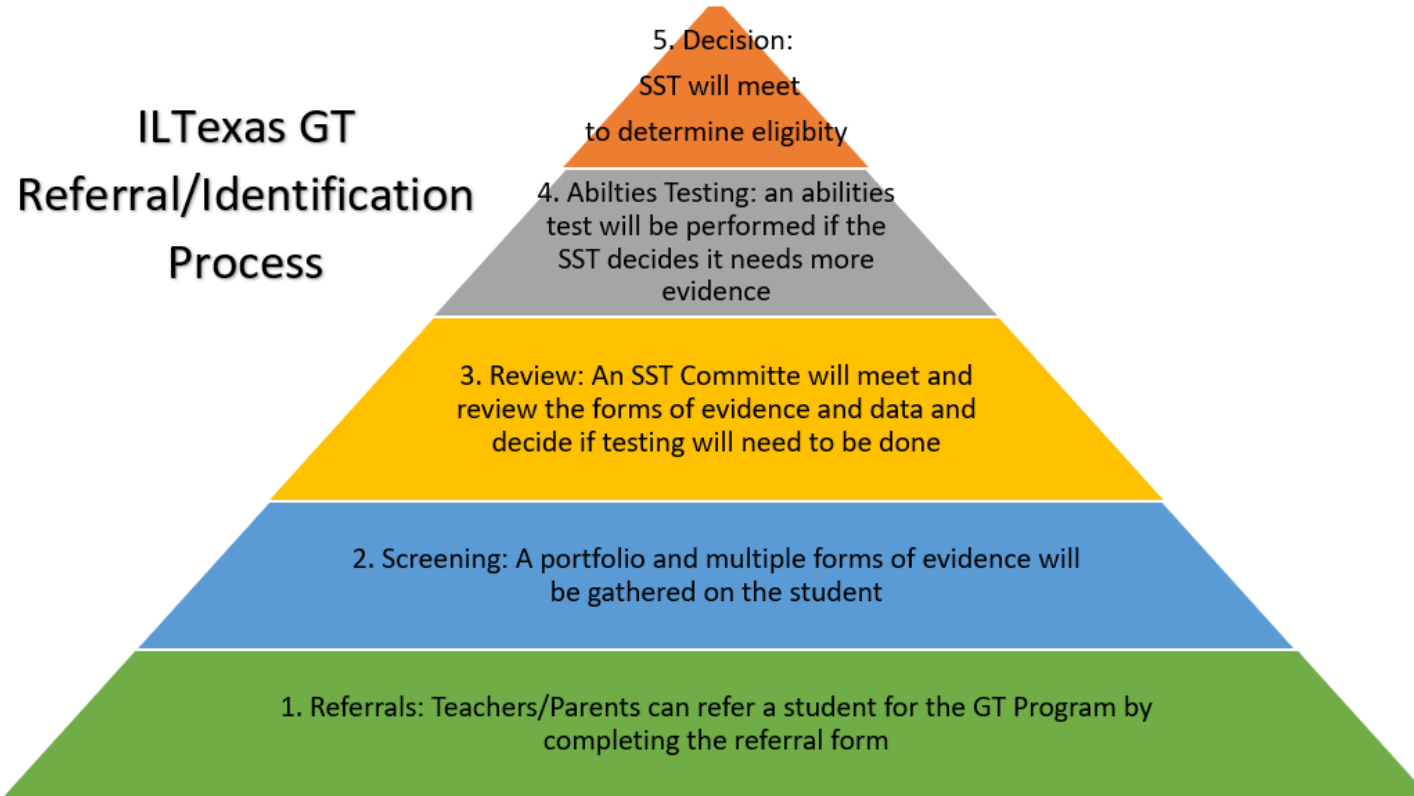
WHEN IS THE STUDENT REFERRAL WINDOW?

- The advertised referral window is typically within the first six weeks of the academic year. Dates for the referral period will be published via multiple outlets, such as campus and district webpages, campus newsletters, and district social media outlets.

WHERE CAN I GET THE STUDENT REFERRAL FORM?

G/T Referrals (online:) <https://iltexas.projectedu.net/home/CustomGTParentReferral>

WHAT IS THE REFERRAL /IDENTIFICATION PROCESS?



DO I NEED TO PREPARE MY CHILD FOR THE ASSESSMENTS?

NO!

However, the following can help
strengthen any student's academics:

Read

Read as much as possible as early as possible

Stop

Stop Answering Questions – help them think
through problems and answer their own questions

Connect

Connect studies to your child's interests to keep
them motivated

HOW IS DATA REVIEWED FOR IDENTIFICATION?



Data is shared with the
GT/SST Identification
Committee



Committee reviews data and
determines eligibility



If your child has been tested
previously, we will review and
consider all assessment data



Parents are notified of the
GT/SST Identification
Committee's decision via
letter home

I AM NEW TO
ILTEXAS, AND MY
CHILD WAS
IDENTIFIED AS
GIFTED IN ANOTHER
DISTRICT. IS HE/SHE
AUTOMATICALLY
PLACED INTO THE
G/T PROGRAM?

- Placement in the ILTexas GT program is not automatic for students identified as gifted outside of ILTexas. Appropriate documentation of previous placement from the previous district must accompany the incoming student. Without the appropriate documentation, the student's placement may be reviewed by the GT/SST Committee and further testing may be required. ILTexas reserves the right to use its own standard procedures and measurements if there is any question regarding appropriate placement.

MY CHILD
TRANSFERRED TO
ANOTHER
CAMPUS WITHIN
ILTEXAS. DOES
THEIR G/T
STATUS
CHANGE?

- No. Gifted/Talented students who transfer within ILTexas will immediately be placed in the Gifted/Talented program at the receiving school.

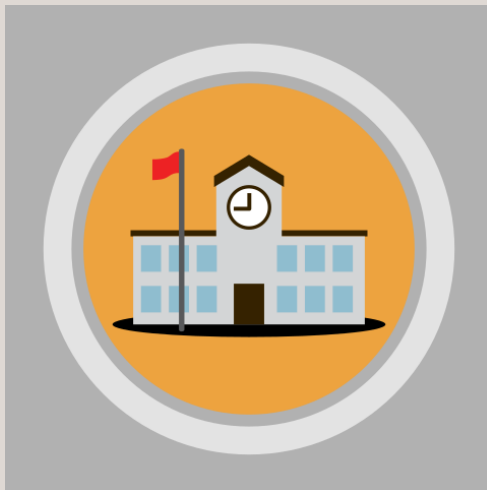
DOES MY
CHILD HAVE TO
RE-QUALIFY
ONCE HE/SHE
MOVES FROM
ELEMENTARY
TO MIDDLE
SCHOOL OR
HIGH SCHOOL?

- No, identified students remain in the program from one grade to the next

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE ACCEPTED INTO THE G/T PROGRAM EACH YEAR?

- GT identification does not involve a quota. All students who qualify under district guidelines will be eligible to participate in the program.

HOW ARE K-8 GIFTED STUDENTS SERVED?



- G/T students on the K8 campuses are served in regular-ed classrooms with a teacher trained in gifted and talented education
- Students also receive GT time during Enrichment to work on GT Projects as well as involvement in any of the many clubs we offer
- These teachers work to differentiate curriculum, instruction, and assessment for gifted students.
- Students learn:
 - Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) same as other grade level classes
 - Different instructional strategies (differentiation)
 - Open ended
 - Depth and Complexity
 - Small groups
 - Learning stations

HOW ARE HIGH SCHOOL GIFTED STUDENTS SERVED?



- Secondary G/T students receive services through Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit coursework. Pre-AP/Honors classes prepare all advanced learners for success in either program.
- Students are also receiving Leadership classes each week to build upon these skills.
- Teachers trained in gifted and talented education differentiate curriculum, instruction and assessments for gifted students.

- Yes.

Various academic competitions and clubs that serve as extended learning opportunities may include but are not limited to:

- Academic UIL
- Robotics
- National Jr. Honor Society/ National Honor Society
- Model UN/ GEMUN
- Jr. World Affairs
- STEM Club
- Student Council
- Spanish Club
- Chinese Club

**ARE THERE
ADDITIONAL
LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE TO
G/T STUDENTS
OUTSIDE OF
THE REGULAR
ACADEMIC
DAY?**

MY CHILD DIDN'T QUALIFY – NOW WHAT?

- It is not unusual for students (especially elementary) to test several times before qualifying
- Students can be nominated every year
- A parent/guardian may request an appeal of a campus placement decision after receiving a G/T services notification letter. Requests for appeals using the Appeal Form must be submitted in writing to the campus Principal/ AP

IN CLOSING...

- Thank you for attending and being an advocate for your child's education.
- For any other questions:
 - Please visit our website: www.iltexas.org/gt
 - Contact AP and Campus G/T Leads
 - Contact the Director of Advanced Academics, Ashley Neuschwander, aneuschwander@iltexas.org