

**HUFFMAN ISD**

# **GIFTED/TALENTED PROGRAM GUIDE**

**Angeles Perez**  
**Chief Academic Officer**  
**[aperez@huffmanisd.net](mailto:aperez@huffmanisd.net)**

# STATE GOAL AND DEFINITION FOR GIFTED EDUCATION AND SERVICES

Students who participate in services designed for gifted students will demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication as evidenced by the development of innovative products and performance that are advanced in relation to students of similar age, experiences, or environment and reflect individuality and creativity. High school graduates who have participated in services for gifted students will have produced products and performances of professional quality as part of their program services.

-Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students

## STATE DEFINITION OF GIFTED/TALENTED STUDENT

§29.121. DEFINITION: In this subchapter “gifted and talented student” means a child or youth who performs at or shows the potential for performing at, a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experiences, or environment and who:

1. Exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area;
2. Posses an unusual capacity for leadership; or
3. Excels in a specific academic field.

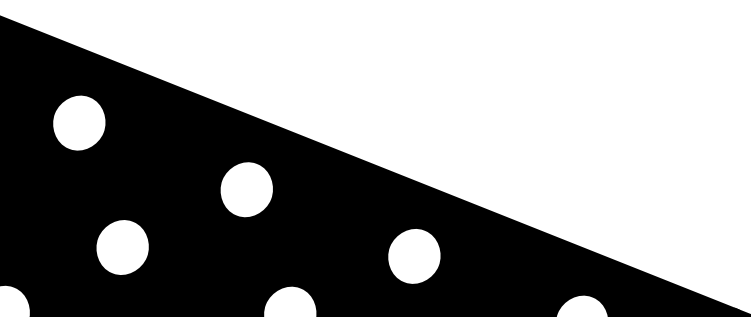
-Added by Acts 1995 74th Leg., 260, §1, eff. May 30 1995



# IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

## REFERRALS

Teachers, counselors, parents, students or other interested persons may refer students for screening for the Gifted and Talented Program. Referrals are accepted throughout the year, with assessments and review meetings occurring during specific assessment windows. Students are referred with a referral form to be given to the campus GT coordinator. Written parent or guardian permission is required to screen/assess a student. If a parent does not want his/her child to be screened, this information will be documented.



# IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

## IDENTIFICATION

In accordance with the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students, the District will use the guidelines for identifying HISD students for the Gifted and Talented Program. Written parent consent shall be obtained before any special testing or assessment is conducted as part of the screening and identification process. All screening and identification procedures for GT purposes are conducted in-district, during the school year, by school personnel at no cost to the parent. HISD does not assess students who are not currently enrolled in the district. The district reserves the right to screen referred students for common characteristics of gifted students prior to completing a full identification profile.

Assessment opportunities for GT identification are made available to students at least once a year. Identification will consist of at least three (3) qualitative and quantitative assessments, including, but not limited to, achievement tests, ability tests, intelligence tests, creativity tests, characteristic checklists completed by teacher and parents, teacher referrals based on classroom observations, and student work products, if available.

If a parent wishes to submit scores from a source outside the district's testing service, the qualifications of the test administrator must be available to the screening committee. Only state licensed/certified evaluators will be acceptable. The district reserves the right to provide different testing.

A district review committee shall evaluate each referred student per the established criteria and shall determine if a preponderance of evidence exists of a GT learning need. The district review committee shall be composed of at least three professional educators who have completed the 30 hours of gifted training.

# IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

AS THE COMMITTEE EVALUATES THE DATA ON THE STUDENTS NOMINATED, THE COMMITTEE HAS THREE OPTIONS:

1. THE PREPONDERANCE OF PROFILE DATA INDICATES THE STUDENT EXHIBITS EDUCATIONAL NEED AND WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE SERVICES OFFERED IN THE GT PROGRAM.
2. THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE IN THE DOCUMENTATION AT THIS TIME INDICATING THE STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL NEEDS WOULD BEST BE MET BY THE GT PROGRAM. THE PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE INDICATES THE STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL NEEDS WOULD BEST BE SERVED WITH THE SERVICES OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM.
3. FURTHER INFORMATION IS REQUESTED FOR THE COMMITTEE TO MAKE A QUALIFICATION DECISION. THE STUDENT WILL BE PLACED ON "MONITORED" STATUS FOR UP TO AN ADDITIONAL SEMESTER BEFORE A FINAL DECISION CAN BE MADE.

IF A PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE FOR A GT LEARNING NEED PRESENTS ITSELF, THE PROFILE DOCUMENT SHALL BE SIGNED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND PLACED IN THE GIFTED AND TALENTED FOLDER WITH ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION COLLECTED DURING THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS. PARENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED AND MUST SIGN AN ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE FORM FOR SERVICES TO BEGIN.

IN GRADES K-5, SERVICES BEGIN IMMEDIATELY. IN GRADES 6-12, SERVICES WILL BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT SEMESTER. DEPENDING ON INDIVIDUAL NEEDS, A STUDENT MAY BE SIMULTANEOUSLY SERVED IN MORE THAN ONE SPECIAL PROGRAM. FOR EXAMPLE, A STUDENT MAY BE SIMULTANEOUSLY SERVED IN THE GT PROGRAM AND IN THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM. APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT IS THE GOAL OF THE COMMITTEE WITH THE WELFARE OF THE STUDENT AT THE HEART OF EVERY DECISION. ONCE THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS IS COMPLETE, PARENTS OR GUARDIANS ARE NOTIFIED OF THE GIFTED/TALENTED COMMITTEE'S DECISION AND WILL SIGN A PERMISSION SLIP ENABLING THEIR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GT PROGRAM.

# ANNUAL IDENTIFICATION TIMELINE - New to District

SEPT. 11-22 TEACHER / PARENT NOMINATIONS (NEWSLETTER / WEB PAGE)

SEPT. 21 GRADES 1-5 PARENT INFORMATIONAL GT MEETING 6:00 - 6:30

SEPT. 22 PARENTAL PERMISSION TO TEST - DUE

SEPT. 25 SEND SIGS TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS ONCE PERMISSION IS OBTAINED. SIGS DUE OCT. 2.

SEPT 25-29 BEGIN OLSAT TESTING

OCT 2 PARENT AND TEACHER SIGS DUE

OCT. 2-6 SCORE OLSAT AND TEACHER / PARENT SIGS

OCT. 16-19 FRE/HES BUILDING SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO DETERMINE WHO MOVES ON TO THE ASSESSMENT PHASE

- SEND HOME LETTERS FOR STUDENTS THAT DID NOT QUALIFY FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM BASED ON THEIR OLSAT SCORES AND PARENT / TEACHER SIGS.

- SEND HOME LETTERS TO PARENTS OF THOSE THAT ARE MOVING ONTO THE ASSESSMENT PHASE OF TESTING.

OCT. 23-27 BEGIN SAT 10 TESTING AND MAKE UPS

OCT 30- NOV 3 FRE/HES BUILDING SELECTION COMMITTEES MEET TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY.

- SEND HOME LETTERS FOR STUDENTS THAT DID NOT QUALIFY.

- ACQUIRE PERMISSION FOR STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM FOR THOSE THAT DID QUALIFY.

- INCLUDE GT TESTING RESULTS IN LETTERS.

NOV. 6-10 SEND HOME PLACEMENT NOTIFICATION AND ACQUIRE PERMISSION FOR STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM.

# **ANNUAL IDENTIFICATION TIMELINE - Kindergarten**

**Oct. 23 – Nov. 3 Teacher / Parent Nominations (Newsletter / Web Page)**

**Nov. 6 – 10 Send parental permission to test**  
• **Send note about Parent Informational GT Meeting**

**Nov. 16 Kindergarten Parent Informational GT Meeting 6:00 – 6:30**

**Nov. 17 Parental permission to test – DUE**  
● **Once permission is obtained, send SIGS to parents and teachers. SIGS due Dec. 8.**

**Nov. 28 - Dec. 15 Begin OLSAT Testing**

**Dec. 8 Parent and Teacher SIGS due**

**Dec. 12 – Jan. 5 Score OLSAT and teacher / parent SIGS**

**Jan. 8– 12 FRE/HES Building Selection Committee Meeting to determine who moves onto the Assessment Phase**  
● **Send home letters for students that did not qualify for the Gifted and Talented program based on OLSAT and SIGS.**  
● **Include GT Testing Results in letters.**  
● **Send home letters to parents of those that are moving onto the Assessment Phase of testing.**

**Jan. 16 – Jan. 26 Begin SAT 10 Testing and Make Ups**  
**Calculate Scores**

**Jan. 29 - Feb. 2 FRE/HES Building Selection Committee Meeting to determine eligibility**  
● **Send home letters for students that did not qualify.**  
● **Acquire permission for students to participate in the Gifted and Talented Program for those that did qualify.**  
● **Include GT Testing Results in letters.**

**March 1 Students must be identified and receive GT services.**

# **ANNUAL IDENTIFICATION TIMELINE - Grades 1-5**

**Nov 28th – Jan. 5 Teacher / Parent Nominations (Newsletter / Web Page)**

**Jan. 8 Send parental permission to test**

● **Send note about Parent Informational GT Meeting**

**Jan. 11 Grades 1-5 Parent Informational GT Meeting 6:00 – 6:30**

**Jan. 12 Parent permission to test - DUE**

● **Once parent permission is obtained, send SIGS to parents and teachers. SIGS due Jan. 27.**

**Jan. 16 – Feb. 2 Begin OLSAT (NNAT for bi-lingual) Testing**

**Jan. 26 Parent and Teacher SIGS due**

**Feb. 5– 16 Score OLSAT and parent / teacher SIGS**

**Feb. 26– March 8 FRE/HES Building Selection Committee Meetings to determine who moves onto the Assessment Phase**

● **Finish scoring OLSAT / NNAT and parent / teacher SIGS**

● **Send home letters for students that did not qualify for the Gifted and Talented program based on their OLSAT / NNAT and SIGS scores.**

● **Send home letters to parents of those that are moving onto the Assessment Phase of testing.**

**March 11 – Mar. 22 Begin SAT 10 (Aprenda 3 for bi-lingual) testing and score all portions of the SAT / Aprenda**

**Mar. 25 - April 12 Score SAT tests**

**April 15– May 3 FRE/HES Building Selection Committees meet to determine eligibility**

● **Send home letters for students that did not qualify.**

● **Acquire permission for students to participate in the Gifted and Talented Program for those that did qualify.**

● **Include GT Testing Results in letters.**

**May 6-10 Obtain permission to participate in the GT Program for next year**



# Other Program Processes

## TRANSFER STUDENTS

WHEN AN IDENTIFIED GIFTED STUDENT TRANSFERS FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE STUDENT'S RECORDS SHALL BE EVALUATED BY THE REVIEW COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE IF PLACEMENT INTO THE HUFFMAN ISD GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM IS APPROPRIATE. THE DISTRICT REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL MAKE ITS DETERMINATION WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE STUDENT'S FIRST DAY OF ATTENDANCE IN THE DISTRICT AND SHALL BASE ITS DECISION ON THE TRANSFERRED RECORDS. IF NEEDED, THE COMMITTEE MAY REQUEST ADDITIONAL DATA TO MAKE ITS DETERMINATION. IF THE PRESENTED DATA DOES NOT MATCH HISD CRITERIA, THE TRANSFER PARENT OR THE DISTRICT MAY REQUEST FURTHER ASSESSMENT.

WHEN A GT STUDENT SERVED IN HISD TRANSFERS TO ANOTHER DISTRICT EITHER IN OR OUT OF TEXAS, THAT DISTRICT IS PROVIDED WITH THE STUDENT'S ASSESSMENT DATA BY HISD.