

Additional Information Regarding GISD Gifted and Talented Services

Description

Gifted and talented services in Galveston Independent School District serve students who are performing or have the potential to perform, at very high cognitive levels relative to their peers. Students in first through fifth grade are served in clustered classes of AG/T students. Advanced classes are offered for secondary students by teachers certified to teach G/T.

Goals

- To provide enrichment services which meet the unique needs of intellectually gifted children
- To provide activities which develop the skills needed for: critical thinking, problem solving, logic, higher-order thinking, creativity, and research
- To develop in the students an awareness of, and positive attitudes toward, their giftedness
- To provide opportunities for the interaction among gifted children
- To provide students with time and the skills needed to explore topics in depth and of individual interest

For more information about
Gifted and Talented services, contact

Galveston ISD Curriculum and Instruction Department

P.O. Box 660 Galveston, TX 77553
(409) 766-5100



Galveston Independent School District Gifted and Talented Services

Mission Statement

*The mission of Galveston ISD is to Educate, Engage and
Empower EACH student for a life of Excellence*



Definition of “Gifted and Talented Student”

“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, experience, or environment and who exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual area or excels in a specific academic field.

Gifted and Talented Services

In order to address the specific needs of gifted students, Galveston ISD offers flexible services that accommodate their special needs, abilities, and interests. Curriculum and instruction meet the needs of gifted students by modifying the depth, complexity, and pacing of general school services. Modified elements include content, process, product, and learning environment.

Screening

Consideration for G/T services begins with NWEA MAP test scores. Students who score in the 90th percentile or higher in Math or Reading are automatically part of the consideration and identification process. Students may also be nominated for services by teachers, counselors, parents, or other interested persons.

Identification Criteria

Criteria to identify G/T students are established in the board-approved services for the gifted and talented. The criteria is 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.

Parent Consent

Written parental consent is obtained before any special testing or individual assessment is conducted as part of the consideration and identification process. All student information collected during the consideration and identification process shall be an educational record subject to the protections set out in a Board policy section FLA.

Selection

A selection committee shall evaluate each nominated student according to the established criteria and shall select those students for whom a gifted program placement 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 and shall be established for the District.



Assessment

Data collected through both qualitative and quantitative 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:

1. Achievement test;
2. Ability/intelligence test;
3. Behavioral checklist completed by teachers and parents;
4. Teacher nomination based on classroom observations;
5. Student/parent conference/interviews;

Notification

Parents and students shall be notified in writing if the student meets identification criteria for G/T services. Participation in any services provided for G/T students is voluntary. The district shall obtain written permission from parents before a student is provided G/T services.

Reassessment

The district may reassess students who are unable to maintain satisfactory performance to determine appropriate services when a student moves from the elementary level to the secondary level or at any time deemed appropriate by the district selection committee.

G/T Transfer Students

When a student, identified as gifted by a previous school district, transfers into Galveston ISD, the student shall be placed in the District's program for gifted and talented students.

Learning Opportunities

The District shall provide an array of learning opportunities for gifted/talented students in kindergarten through grade 12 and shall inform parents of the opportunities. Options shall include:

1. Instructional and organizational patterns that enable identified students to work together as a group, to work with other students, and to work independently.
2. A continuum of learning experiences that leads to the development of advanced-level products and performances.
3. In-school, and when possible, out-of-school options relevant to the student's area of strength that are available during the school year.
4. Opportunities to accelerate in areas of strength.

Furlough

A student who is unable to maintain satisfactory performance within the structure of a gifted and talented program may be placed on furlough by the selection committee. A furlough also may be granted at the request of the student and/or parent.

A student may be furloughed for a period of time deemed appropriate by the selection committee. At the end of the furlough, the student's progress shall be reassessed, and the student may reenter the gifted program, be removed from the program, or be placed on another furlough.

Exit Provisions

Student performance in the program shall be monitored. A student shall be removed from the program at any time the selection committee determines it is in the student's best interest. If a student or parent requests removal from the program, the selection committee shall meet with the parent and student before honoring the request.

Services Evaluation

Gifted services shall be evaluated periodically, and evaluation information shall be shared with Board members, administrators, teachers, counselors, students in the gifted and talented program, and the community.

Community Awareness

Galveston ISD shall ensure that information about the District's gifted and talented services are available to parents and community members and that they have an opportunity to develop an understanding of and support for gifted and talented.

Staff Development

The district shall ensure that:

1. Teachers who provide instruction and services for gifted students have a minimum of 30 hours of staff development that includes nature and needs of gifted/talented students, assessing student needs, and curriculum and instruction for gifted students.
2. Teachers who provide instruction and services for gifted students receive a minimum of six hours annually of professional development in gifted education.
3. Administrators and counselors who have authority for service decisions have a minimum of six hours of professional development that includes nature and needs of gifted/talented students and service options.



It is the policy of Galveston ISD not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, religion, color, or national origin in its educational programs and/or activities nor in its employment practices