



PITTSBURG ISD
Gifted and Talented Program
Handbook



PITTSBURG ISD

Gifted and Talented Program

**Board Policy- Legal and Local
Nomination and Screening Process
Identification and Placement Process
Service Design**

For further information, contact the campus principal.

**Pittsburg Primary: 903-856-6482
Pittsburg Elementary: 903-856-6472
Pittsburg Intermediate: 903-856-3395
Pittsburg Junior High: 903-856-6432
Pittsburg High School: 903-856-3646**

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

EHBB
(LEGAL)

A district shall establish a process for identifying and serving gifted and talented students and shall establish a program for those students in each grade level. Under this provision, a district may establish a shared services arrangement with other districts.

A district shall adopt a policy regarding the use of funds to support the district's program for gifted and talented students.

Education Code 29.122

Definition

"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:

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

Education Code 29.121

Identification

Students shall be identified as gifted/talented in accordance with a written policy that includes:

1. Provisions for ongoing screening and selection of students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment in the areas defined in Education Code 29.121.
2. Assessment measures collected from multiple sources according to each area defined in the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students.
3. Data and procedures designed to ensure that students from all populations in a district have access to assessment and, if identified, to services provided for the gifted/talented program.
4. Provisions for final selection of students to be made by a committee of at least three local district educators who have received training in the nature and needs of gifted students.
5. Provisions regarding furloughs, reassessment, exiting of students from program services, transfer students, and appeals of district decisions regarding program placement.

19 TAC 89.1

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**Learning
Opportunities**

A 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 entire school year.
4. Opportunities to accelerate in areas of strength.

19 TAC 89.3

Note: See DMA(LEGAL) for training requirements for teachers of gifted and talented education.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

EHBB
(LOCAL)

Referral	Students may be referred for the gifted and talented program at any time by teachers, school counselors, parents, or other interested persons.
Screening and Identification Process	The District shall provide assessment opportunities to complete the screening and identification process for referred students at least once per school year. The District shall schedule a gifted and talented program awareness session for parents that provides an overview of the assessment procedures and services for the program prior to beginning the screening and identification process.
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, subject to the protections set out in policies at FL.
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 selection 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.
Notification	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.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

EHBB
(LOCAL)

Reassessment	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 selection 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. [See FDD(LEGAL) for information regarding transfer students and the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children]
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 selection committee or a parent determines it is in the best interest of the student to exit the program, 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 selection committee regarding selection for or exit from the gifted and talented program. Appeals shall be made first to the selection committee. Any subsequent appeals shall be made in accordance with 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.

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EHBB
(LOCAL)

Funding

The District's gifted and talented program shall address effective use of funds for programs and services consistent with the standards in the state plan for gifted and talented students.

**Community
Awareness**

The District shall ensure that information about the District's gifted and talented program is available to parents and community members and that they have an opportunity to develop an understanding of and support for the program.



**PITTSBURG ISD
GIFTED AND TALENTED
NOMINATION/SCREENING PROCESS**

Students in grades K-12 shall be assessed and, if identified, provided gifted/talented services.
(TEC 29.122 and 19 TAC 89.1(3))

Teachers, counselors, parents, or other interested persons may nominate students for the gifted and talented program.

- Ongoing assessment of Kindergarten students will be conducted through teacher observation and assessment of classroom enrichment performance objectives. Both the classroom teacher and a teacher with appropriate grade level certification and a GT endorsement will direct these enrichment performance objectives.
- The nomination period for students in grades one through eight will be during the spring semester. Nominations for first through eighth grade students must be received in the office of the campus in which the student is enrolled before the last day of the nomination period. Upon qualification and placement in the program, students will begin receiving services the following school year.
- Students in grades nine through twelve may be nominated at any time during the school year. Testing will be conducted within six weeks of receipt of the nomination packet with services beginning upon qualification and placement in the program.



PITTSBURG ISD GIFTED AND TALENTED IDENTIFICATION/PLACEMENT PROCESS

Access to assessment and, if needed, gifted/talented services are available to all populations of the district. (19 TAC 89.1(3))

Nominated students are assessed with the following qualitative and quantitative measures: Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test, Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary Students (Reasoning) and Torrance Test for Creativity. Written permission to test is obtained prior to administration of any test. Students should score at or above the 85th percentile on at least two of the three tests administered.

Certified professional staff trained in test administration procedures administer all tests to nominated students. The testing window will begin on Monday of the first full week of April and end on Friday of the second full week of May.

An Identification Profile Summary is compiled with the results of each testing measure. This summary is presented to the GT Selection Committee. This committee is made up of Pittsburg ISD staff assigned to a campus other than the one the nominated student attends.

Final selection of students is made by a committee of at least three local district educators who have received training in the nature and needs of gifted/talented students and have met and reviewed individual student data. 19 TAC 89.1(4)

Parents of nominated and tested students are notified in writing and any of the following scenarios may occur:

1. Student is not placed into the GT program and the parent/guardian does not appeal.
2. Student is not placed into the GT program and the parent/guardian appeals to the Selection Committee via the campus principal.
3. Student is placed into the GT program and parent/guardian gives written permission for the student to participate in the program.
4. Student is placed into the GT program and parent/guardian denies placement into the program.



PITTSBURG ISD
GIFTED AND TALENTED
SERVICE DESIGN

Identified gifted/talented students are assured an array of learning opportunities that are commensurate with their abilities and that emphasize content in the four foundation curricular areas. Services are available during the school day as well as the entire school year. Parents are informed of these options. (19 TAC 89.3(3))

Beginning with the second nine weeks, kindergarten and first grade students will participate in enrichment activities designed to lead to the development of advanced-level products and/or performances. Children will be selected to participate based on display of higher level thinking and questioning skills during classroom activities. The formal identification process begins in the spring of the student's first grade year.

Identified students in grades two through five will participate in a "pull out" program designed to lead to the development of advanced-level products or performances and provide an array of learning opportunities.

Identified students in grades five through eight will participate in opportunities presented through an advanced class included in their daily schedule. This class will be one of the core subjects and will include opportunities that are commensurate with their abilities and that emphasize content in the foundation curricular areas.

Identified students in grades nine through twelve will participate in opportunities as presented in Honors English Language Arts classes or dual credit English classes providing college level coursework. These classes will include opportunities that are commensurate with their abilities. Gifted and talented services shall be provided to all identified students that allow them to work together as a group, work with other students, and work independently. Out-of-school options will be provided when possible.