

Dear Parents,

The following information is for any parent of a child in 1st-4th grades who would like to refer their child for the Carroll ISD Gifted and Talented Program. The referral form is open August 25, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. through September 9, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. and can be found at the link below, along with additional information in regards to identifying giftedness. Kindergarten will have their own referral period in December.

**The deadline for referrals is September 9, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.
There are NO exceptions to the deadline. This is a district guideline.**

The gifted program is called Quest at the elementary level. It is an interdisciplinary program where students are encouraged to make connections and view the world in a more global manner. Quest removes a learner from his or her regular classroom each week, and provides extreme academic intervention for students with an academic need while using state-mandated curriculum.

[Gifted Learner vs Bright Learner](#)

Students in grades 1-3 will test in small groups during school hours in September, October, and/or November. All 4th grade students **must** have a referral to be assessed for gifted services from the grade level testing in October. Students must meet [Phase I cognitive criteria](#) in order to move forward to the Phase II portion of the screening process. Testing will end for students whose scores do not fall within the target range for cognitive ability. Phase II involves testing in the area of achievement. You will be notified after each phase of your student's status after **all district testing is complete** and the District Screening Committee has met to consider qualifications. For more information about the Quest program, you can visit the Carroll ISD webpage: [Carroll ISD Gifted and Talented Program](#).

In Texas, only 9% of children state-wide are identified as gifted learners. Nationally, it would be the top 3%-5% of everyone. A child in this range is easily observed as such, and thus, there is no reason to rush your child to perform on a paper/pencil test. Waiting will not negatively impact your child's educational experience in Carroll ISD. The GT testing process is quite rigorous. Students must be able to listen carefully and sit quietly, without distracting others, for extended periods of time. The hope is that you will consider your student's emotional maturity, academic level (regularly functioning 2 years above grade level), and stamina before putting him or her in a stressful testing environment where they may feel the "pressure to perform" to the extreme level that might require a need for gifted-level academic interventions. If you believe that your child needs gifted and talented academic intervention, please review the information about gifted learners above and determine if testing is in your child's best interest.

By completing this referral, you are agreeing to have your child evaluated for, and to receive special educational services, based on academic needs. You are also agreeing to abide by all of the Carroll ISD guidelines for identification. There is no need to email other extra information, as it might be perceived as an unfair advantage. Your online referral is enough to begin the process. I am happy to answer any questions regarding the testing process and GT program. I can be reached at allyson.dickinson@southlakecarroll.edu.

[GT Referral Link](#)

Mrs. Dickinson

GT Specialist/Quest Teacher
Johnson Elementary School
Carroll ISD