Gifted & Talented Handbook

2025-2026

KILGORE
Independent School District

State Definition of Gifted and Talented

A 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, creative, or artistic area; possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or excels in a specific academic field.

Texas Education Code 29.121

Beliefs

We believe gifted and talented (GT) students are passionate about learning, solve problems uniquely, and require support from trained teachers sensitive to their individual needs.
We believe that appropriate services for Gifted/Talented students will enable them to work successfully alone, with other gifted students, and with students not identified as gifted.

Philosophy

GT students come from all races, socio-economic strata, geographic locales, and environments. They display unique needs and possess unusual abilities and talents that merit recognition and nurturing.

Mission Statement

The mission of Kilgore ISD Gifted & Talented Services is to provide an array of educational experiences to foster critical and creative thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving while meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of gifted students through enriched educational opportunities. The G/T program in Kilgore ISD provides services in general intellectual ability. Efforts are made to encourage the development of specific academic abilities, creativity, and leadership gifts while enriching academic achievement. The G/T program will vary the content taught, the instructional strategies used to teach it, the environment in which it is taught, and the student's role in learning.

KISD GT Objectives

*Identify kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) students to be served in the KISD Gifted and Talented program.

*Identify the abilities and needs of each gifted and talented student to provide appropriate services.

*Develop and/or identify appropriate curricula, instruction, and materials to support program and student goals.

*Provide trained professionals, teachers, and administrators on each campus with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide services for gifted and talented students and implement programs for identified students.

*Involve parents and community members in implementing the Gifted and Talented programs.

Updated 6/1/25

GT Services

The G/T program in Kilgore ISD provides services in general intellectual ability in the four (4) core curricular areas. Efforts are made to encourage the development of specific academic abilities, creativity, and leadership gifts while enriching academic achievement. The G/T program will vary the content taught, the instructional strategies used to teach it, the environment in which it is taught, and the students' role in learning.
Students identified are served through a pull-out program in the K-5 core curriculum. Middle and High School G/T students are served through advanced core courses, Pre-AP, AP, and Dual Credit. Opportunities outside of the regular school day are encouraged and provided as appropriate activities are available.

Identification

Identifying students for the GT program is based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures. These include, but are not limited to, cognitive ability measures, achievement tests, parent surveys, and teacher surveys.

The identification process shall be accomplished in **three stages**:

- **Referral:** At all levels, K-12, parents/guardians, teachers, counselors, and students may make referrals. All Kindergarten students are considered and assessed using the CogAT Assessment.

- **Assessment:**
    - Quantitative Testing:
        - Cognitive Abilities Test 7 (CogAT) (Grades K-12), IOWA Test of Basic Skills (Grades K-12), classroom performance, and State Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR). KISD reserves the right to choose from our battery of nationally normed assessments as needed.
    - Qualitative Measures:
        - Parent Inventory; Teacher Inventory

- **SELECTION (EHBB LOCAL)**
  A selection committee shall evaluate each nominated/referred student according to the established criteria. It 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, and shall be established at each campus.

Appeal Procedures (EHBB LOCAL)

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.

Transfer Students New to District (EHBB LOCAL)

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.

Furloughs and Exits from Program (EHBB LOCAL)

The District may place on a furlough any student who cannot 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.
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.

GT Parent Advisory Council

Parents have the opportunity to participate in a parent association. The effectiveness of gifted/talented services is evaluated annually and shared with the board of trustees, and the data is used to modify and update district and campus improvement plans. Parents are included in the evaluation process, and the outcomes and findings of the evaluation are shared with parents.

GT General Parent Meetings

The times and dates for any general parent meetings will be listed on the Curriculum Department website under Advanced Academics. Notes will go home with GT students prior to the meetings. All parents are encouraged to attend.

GT Hours and Update Hours

Prior to assignment in the program, teachers who provide instruction and services that are a part of the program 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.

Program Evaluation (EHBB Local)

The District shall annually evaluate the effectiveness of the District's gifted and talented program, and the evaluation results 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, counselors, students in the gifted and talented program, and the community.

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

The District shall annually report to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding funding to implement the District's gifted and talented program. The District shall annually certify to TEA:

1. The establishment of a gifted and talented program by the District; and
2. The District's program is consistent with the state plan for gifted and talented students