



SOUTH TEXAS ISD

# GIFTED AND TALENTED NOMINATION PROCESS

# AGENDA

- What it means to be gifted
- STISD Gifted and Talented Program
- Identifying Gifted and Talented learners at South Texas  
ISD
- FAQ

# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE GIFTED

“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 (TEC Subchapter D §29.121)."

# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE GIFTED

“Gifted individuals are those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude (defined as an exceptional ability to reason and learn) or competence (documented performance or achievement in top 10% or rarer) in one or more domains. Domains include any structured area of activity with its own symbol system (e.g., mathematics, music, language) and/or set of sensorimotor skills (e.g., painting, dance, sports).”

–National Association for Gifted Children

# THE BRIGHT/GIFTED CHILD<sup>5</sup>

## BRIGHT CHILD

- Knows the answers
- Is interested and is attentive
- Has good ideas
- Works hard
- Answers the Questions
- Listens with interest
- Learns with ease
- 6-8 repetitions for mastery
- Understands ideas
- Enjoys peers
- Grasps the meaning
- Completes assignments
- Is receptive
- Copies accurately
- Enjoys and absorbs school
- Technician
- Good memorizer
- Enjoys straightforward, sequential presentation
- Is alert
- Is pleased with own learning

## GIFTED LEARNER

- Asks the questions
- Is highly curious
- Is mentally and physically involved
- Has wild, silly ideas
- Plays around, yet tests well
- Discusses in detail, elaborates
- Beyond the group
- Shows strong feelings and opinions
- Already knows
- 1-2 repetitions for mastery
- Constructs abstractions
- Prefers adults
- Draws inferences
- Initiates projects
- Is intense
- Creates a new design
- Enjoys learning
- Manipulates information
- Inventor
- Good guesser
- Thrives on complexity
- Is keenly observant
- Is highly self-critical

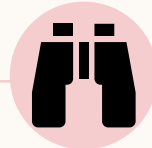
# SIGNS OF GIFTEDNESS IN CHILDREN INCLUDE:



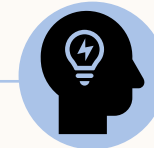
an extreme need for  
constant mental  
stimulation



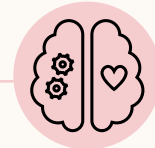
an ability to learn  
and process complex  
information rapidly



a need to explore  
subjects in surprising  
depth



an insatiable  
curiosity, as  
demonstrated by  
endless questions and  
inquiries



ability to  
comprehend material  
several grade levels  
above their age peers

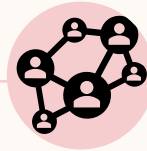
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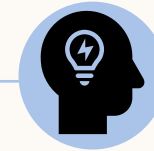
surprising emotional  
depth and sensitivity  
at a young age



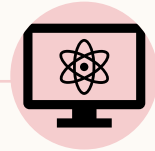
enthusiastic about  
unique interests and  
topics



self-aware, socially  
aware, and aware of  
global issues



creative problem  
solving and  
imaginative  
expression



absorbs information  
quickly with few  
repetitions needed



# **GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM**

# STISD'S PROGRAM VISION AND MISSION

## **Vision:**

South Texas ISD will be a leader and innovator in the development of the gifted and talented students intellectual, creative and leadership potential through participation in an exemplary program that fosters the gifted and talented students' unique needs and abilities.

## **Mission:**

It is the mission of STISD'S Gifted and Talented Program to implement best practices by which we identify, teach, support and nurture gifted and talented students to be lifelong scholars, critical thinkers, innovators, leaders and global contributors.

# STATE GOAL FOR SERVICES FOR GIFTED/TALENTED STUDENTS

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

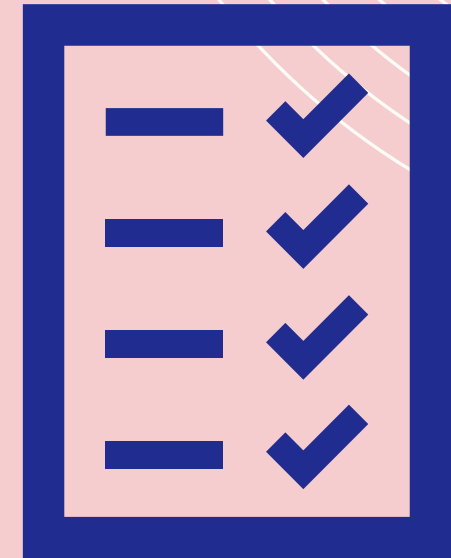
# STISD'S PROGRAM GOALS

- Goal 1: Establish an equitable and effective identification process for gifted and talented students.
- Goal 2: Maintain equitable participation and increase performance in advanced academic opportunities.
- Goal 3: Increase and vary enrichment opportunities for gifted and talented students.
- Goal 4: Provide parents and teachers with the tools and resources to gain knowledge to support gifted and talented students.

# STISD'S G/T PROGRAM

- Once identified, students will be provided services based on their strengths and interests and provided opportunities to produce advanced level products, such as those provided by the Texas Performance Standards Projects.
- In addition, as commensurate with their abilities, students will be provided opportunities to accelerate in their areas of strength.
- These programs may include Honors, Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment classes. In addition, South Texas ISD will provide opportunities for gifted/talented students to pursue areas of interest in selected disciplines through guided and independent research. Opportunities for students to participate in the Texas Performance Standards Projects or other experiences that lead to the development of advanced-level products will be provided.

# **GIFTED AND TALENTED IDENTIFICATION PROCESS**



# GIFTED AND TALENTED IDENTIFICATION 2025-2026



- Referral calendar:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks
- 4<sup>th</sup> Nine Weeks

- Nomination window opens February 2, 2026
- Assessment window March 2-April 3, 2026

- Notifications will be sent out via email by April 30, 2026

# NOMINATION

The G/T identification of a student can be initiated in three ways:

- Parent nomination
- Teacher nomination
- Student self-nomination

You can nominate an STISD student in two ways:

- Using our online form or
- Using by submitting the form posted on our website and sending it to your campus administrator

# SCREENING CRITERIA

Meeting criteria in at least **two (2) of the following areas** will permit the referred students to enter the screening phase:

Previously enrolled in a GT Program in another public school district

- Parent input
- Teacher input
- Student self-evaluation of interests
- Grades (top 10% of semester average within language arts and/or mathematics)

# TESTING

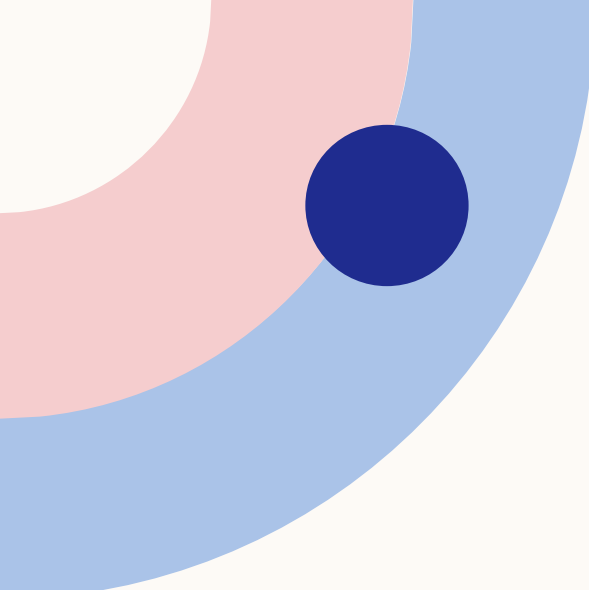
- If additional testing is recommended after the screening process, parents of those selected will receive a letter asking for permission to test. South Texas ISD students may be referred and re-screened once every year, with twelve months passing between each assessment event.
- South Texas ISD will provide assessment opportunities for gifted/talented identification at least once per school year.

2025-2026

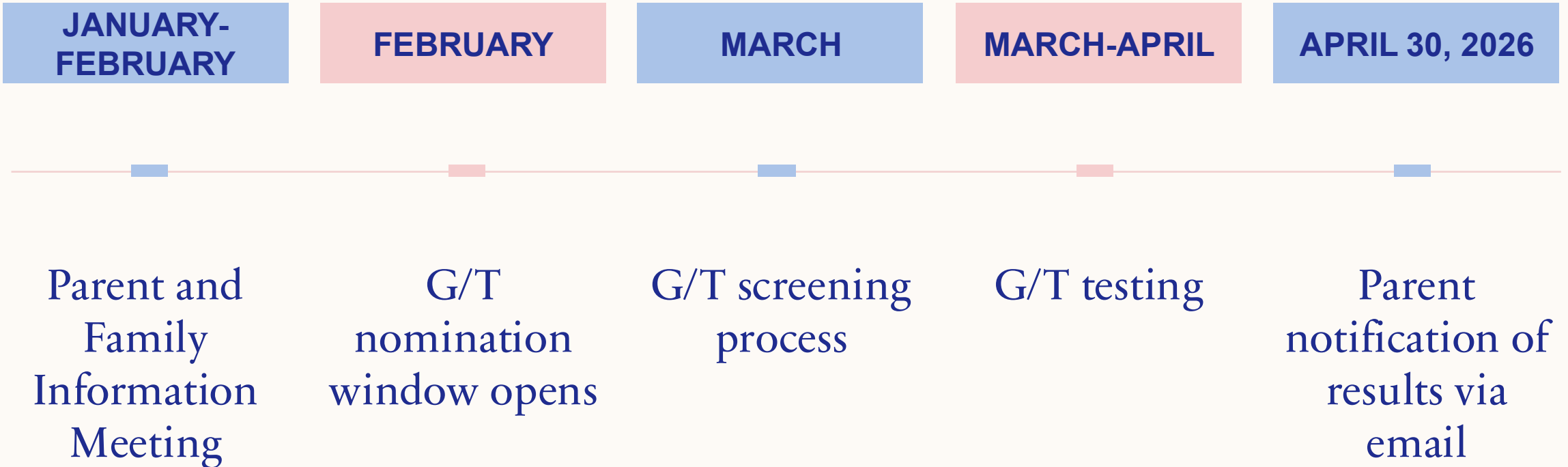
Assessment window

March 2-April 3, 2026

*\*South Texas ISD strongly suggests that students not be referred for more than two sequential years without a significant change in the data. The District will not initiate the referral unless the parent requests it.*



# TIMELINE





IF YOUR CHILD IS ALREADY  
IDENTIFIED AS GIFTED AND  
TALENTED, HE/SHE DOES NOT NEED  
TO BE REASSESSED.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



# **WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT?**

- The State of Texas goal requires students who participate in services designed for gifted students to demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, and research and communication as evidenced by the development of innovative products and performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are advanced in relation to students of similar age, experience or environment. 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.

# **WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER WHEN YOU DO A SCREENING FOR GIFTED PROGRAMMING IN STISD?**

- Areas considered in screening for gifted programming in South Texas Independent School District are as follows:
  1. Ability
  2. Achievement
  3. Observed Performance

# WHAT IS ON THE TEST? WHAT CAN THE STUDENT DO TO PREPARE?

- The CogAT appraises the cognitive development of students from sixth through 12 grade.
- The questions on CogAT require students to demonstrate their reasoning abilities in each of the three symbol systems most closely related to success in school: verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning and nonverbal reasoning.
  - The Verbal Battery assesses students' abilities to use search, retrieval and comparison processes that are essential for verbal reasoning.
  - The Quantitative Battery assesses students' abilities to reason about patterns and relations using concepts that are essential in quantitative thinking.
  - The Nonverbal Battery assesses students' abilities to reason with somewhat more novel questions that use spatial and figural content.

## **WHO MAKES THE PLACEMENT DECISIONS REGARDING STUDENT PLACEMENT IN GIFTED PROGRAMMING AT STISD?**

- It is state law that GT placement decisions be made by a district committee of GT trained professionals. STISD uses campus GT placement decisions.

## **HOW MANY PEOPLE SERVE ON THESE CAMPUS GT PLACEMENT COMMITTEES?**

- By state law there must be a minimum of three persons on that committee. The number will vary from campus to campus, but they will all have at least three STISD professional staff members.

## **WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION?**

- You may file an appeal letter addressed to the GT Placement Committee and delivered to the GT Campus Coordinator.

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED SERVICES AT STISD**

- Identified students in grades 6-12 are provided service through Honors, AP or Dual classes with GT-trained teachers in the core subject areas of English language arts, social studies, science, and mathematics.



**DISTRICT CONTACT**  
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