

Bentonville Public Schools Gifted and Talented Program

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What should I do before submitting a referral?**
 - a. Talk with your student's teacher about their observations and your child's performance levels.
 - b. Check your student's ATLAS scores, if available. Students need to be strong academically since they will miss a day of instruction each week if placed in the Gifted & Talented program.

- 2. Where do I find the referral link?**
 - a. Visit the [Gifted and Talented](#) webpage.
 - b. Click on [Parent Referrals](#) on the right side of the page
 - c. Referral and Eligibility Information will open
 - d. Read the information
 - e. You should receive a reply stating that your referral was submitted successfully. If not, please review your form and then contact our office (479.418.7389)

- 3. What should I do to prepare my child for testing?**
 - a. A good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast are the only preparation necessary.

- 4. When will my child be tested?**
 - a. Your child may be tested before the Identification Committee meeting on any school day.
 - b. Your child may be pulled for testing multiple times since several tests will be administered.

- 5. What if my child is absent a day he/she is to be tested?**
 - a. Absences will be made up before the Committee meeting.

- 6. If my child was placed in a GT program at his/her previous district, would he/she just "drop into" the program in Bentonville Schools?**
 - a. No, all transfer students must be referred, tested, and meet Bentonville Schools' placement criteria.
 - b. Each district has different programs and placement criteria; therefore, the Bentonville Schools' Gifted & Talented program may not meet your student's needs.

- 7. Who determines if my child needs gifted & talented services?**

- a. A committee of at least five members, including administrators, teachers, and counselors from each elementary and middle school building, chaired by a trained specialist in gifted education, analyzes the data and makes professional decisions about student placement.
- b. A student is recommended for services based on a preponderance of data indicating an educational need beyond what the regular classroom can provide.

8. What information determines if my child needs gifted & talented services?

- a. Information considered by the committee includes:
 - i. Referral from the parent or teacher
 - ii. Teacher rating scales regarding observations of gifted characteristics in five different domains indicating a need for gifted services
 - iii. Ability test scores
 - iv. Creativity test scores
 - v. Aptitude test scores

9. How do I find out more about my child's scores?

- a. Contact the TREC Center office to schedule a conference (479.418.7389)
- b. Students' scores will not be shared via email or over the phone.

10. What if my child has an IEP/504 Plan?

- a. As noted in the student's IEP or 504 Plan, testing accommodations will be followed for all testing performed by the GT staff.
- b. Be sure to indicate on the referral form if your child has an IEP or 504 Plan so we know and can make the appropriate accommodations.

11. Can my child be retested if he/she does not qualify?

- a. Yes, but he/she cannot be tested again for one year due to test validity.
- b. Either the parent or teacher will need to submit a new referral after a year has passed.

12. What are the GT services if my child is placed in the program?

- a. In second through fifth grades, students attend classes one day per week at the TREC Center with grade-level peers.
- b. In sixth grade, GT services are provided through Pre-Advanced Placement classes at their buildings. They are also invited to attend the GT staff's monthly seminars for affective (social/emotional) lessons related to giftedness.
- c. In seventh through twelfth grades, GT services are provided through pre-Advanced Placement courses, Advanced Placement courses, Concurrent Credit Courses, or International Baccalaureate courses.

13. Once my student is placed in the program, will he/she be required to retest each year to remain in the program?

- a. No, students are not required to retest to remain in the program.
- b. Their continuance is based on their performance while in the program. These are ongoing performance-based assessments.

14. Who should I contact if I have more questions?

- a. Call the TREC Center for Gifted Education at 479.418.7390
- b. The Gifted and Talented Coordinator is Tracy Smart

15. Where is the TREC Center located?

- a. We are located at 301 NW 3rd St, Bentonville, AR 72712 in the R. E. Baker Elementary building.