



Referrals and Eligibility for the Gifted Education Program

The Gifted Education Program at Bentonville Schools, known as TREC (Think, Research, Explore, Create), is dedicated to supporting the social, emotional, and academic development of identified gifted learners. The eligibility process for the program is outlined below:

Referral Process:

Testing and program participation are exclusively available to students currently enrolled in Bentonville School District Schools. Referrals for the Gifted Program can be made by individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities, including teachers, parents, peers, or the students themselves.

While teachers typically initiate referrals, parents have the option to refer their child by completing a referral form. The parental referral process involves the following steps:

- 1. Discussion with Teacher:**
 - Begin by discussing the child's potential with their teacher.
- 2. Submission of Referral:**
 - They may submit a referral through the Parent Referrals link if their child meets the criteria.

Procedures Following Referral:

Upon submission of a referral, the following steps are taken:

1. Referral Submitted
2. Assessments Administered by Gifted & Talented Certified Teachers

3. Testing Occurs Over Several Weeks
4. Qualification in Four of Six Areas:
 - Creativity
 - Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal Ability
 - At least two of five teacher questionnaire sections

Transfer Students:

Transfer students from other districts must go through the referral, testing, and meet Bentonville Schools placement criteria. Students from out-of-district, private school, and homeschool programs require testing to determine eligibility.

The next round of testing for gifted eligibility will occur within the windows below:

What	Grades	Referral Period	Testing Dates
Fall Administration	3-5	April 15-August 25, 2025	August 18–September 19, 2025
2 nd Grade	2nd	August 15-October 3, 2025	October 6 – November 11, 2025
Fall II Administration	3-5	August 26-October 03, 2025	October 06-December 5, 2025

Winter Administration	2-5	October 04-December 19, 2025	January 5-February 6, 2026
Spring Administration	2-5	December 20-March 20, 2026	March 30-May 15, 2026 (eligible students will begin September 2026)

Test Types and Preparation:

The eligibility tests are reviewed for bias and are nationally normed. Outside test data may be considered if less than one year old and of the same type. Gifted eligibility assessments measure different areas of a student's abilities, and preparation involves ensuring a good night's rest and a high-protein breakfast.

Teacher Rating Scale:

Your input is a vital part of the gifted and talented identification process. As a teacher, your perspective helps us understand each student beyond test scores. You will be asked to rate referred students in five key areas: leadership, learning, adaptability, creativity, and motivation.

These ratings are averaged and included in determining a student's eligibility for gifted services. Because your scores directly impact this process, it is important that your ratings accurately reflect the student's abilities.

In addition, your written comments are highly valued. They often provide essential insight, especially when a student's scores fall close to the qualifying range. Your thoughtful feedback helps the identification committee gain a more complete picture of each child's potential.

Thank you for the time and care you give in completing this important step.

Score Validity:

Gifted eligibility scores remain valid for one full year after administration. Students with valid scores will not be re-tested before the end of the validity period.

Eligibility Guidelines:

- K-1: Not tested; whole group enrichment.
- 2-5: 91% percentile or above on five of the assessments administered.

After examining the eligibility criteria for gifted and talented (TREC) services outlined above, please click on the link below to submit a referral form.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A REFERRAL](#)