



Referrals and Eligibility for the Gifted Education Program

Bentonville Schools Gifted Education Program (TREC)

Referral and Eligibility Information

The Gifted Education Program at Bentonville Schools—known as TREC (Think, Research, Explore, Create)—supports the academic, social, and emotional needs of students who demonstrate advanced ability, creativity, and potential. The information below outlines the referral, testing, and eligibility process for families considering gifted services.

Referral Process

Testing and participation in the Gifted Education Program are available only to students currently enrolled in Bentonville Schools.

Referrals may be submitted by teachers, parents/guardians, peers, or by the students themselves. Parents may submit a referral at any time. Students will be assessed during the next testing window for which they are eligible.

Steps for Parent Referrals

1. Speak with Your Child's Teacher

Begin by discussing your child's strengths and learning needs with their classroom teacher. They can help determine whether a referral is appropriate.

2. Submit a Parent Referral Form

If your child appears to meet the eligibility criteria, you may complete the online Parent Referral Form. A link is provided at the end of this document.

What Happens After a Referral Is Submitted?

Once a referral is received, the following steps occur:

1. Referral Received and Logged

2. Assessments Administered

Gifted & Talented–certified teachers administer a series of nationally normed assessments over several weeks.

3. Evaluation Period

Testing sessions may be scheduled across multiple days to help students perform their best.

4. Eligibility Review

Students must demonstrate strengths in four of the following six areas:

- Creativity
- Verbal Ability
- Quantitative Ability
- Nonverbal Ability
- Teacher Rating Scale (must qualify in at least two of the five domains)

Parents will be notified when testing is complete and results have been reviewed by the District Identification Committee.

Transfer Students

Students transferring from another school district—whether in-state, out-of-state, private school, or homeschool—must complete the Bentonville Schools gifted referral and testing process. Previous gifted identification does not automatically transfer, and all students must meet Bentonville Schools' gifted placement criteria to qualify for TREC services.

Referral and Testing Windows

Administration	Grades	Referral Period	Testing Dates
Fall	3-5	April 15-August 25, 2025	August 18–September 19, 2025
2 nd Grade (Fall)	2	August 15-October 3, 2025	October 6 – November 17, 2025
Fall II	3-5	August 26-October 03, 2025	October 06- November 17, 2025
Winter	2-5	October 04-December 19, 2025	January 5-March 3, 2026
Spring*	2-5	December 20-March 20, 2026	March 30-May 15, 2026*
Fall 2026	3-5	March 21-August 21, 2026	August 17-September 25, 2026

*Students who qualify during the spring administration will begin TREC services in **September 2026**.

About the Tests

- All assessments are nationally normed, research-supported, and reviewed linguistic bias.
- All assessments used in the evaluation process are nationally normed and research-supported, and they are selected to provide fair and appropriate opportunities for all students.

Score Validity

- Gifted eligibility scores remain valid for one full calendar year.
- Students will not be retested before the end of that validity period, even if they are referred again.

Eligibility Guidelines

- **Grades K–1:** Students are not formally tested for gifted eligibility; they participate in whole-group enrichment provided by classroom and GT teachers.
- **Grade 2:** Students must score at or above the **95th percentile** in **at least five** of the assessments administered to be considered for placement.
- **Grades 3–5:** Students must score at or above the **92nd percentile** in **at least five** of the assessments administered to be considered for placement.

Parents will receive written notification once the District Identification Committee has completed its review.

After reviewing the eligibility criteria for Gifted and Talented (TREC) services outlined above, please use the link below to submit a referral form.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A REFERRAL](#)