



Referrals and Eligibility for the Gifted Education Program

Bentonville Schools Gifted and Talented Program (TREC) Referral and Eligibility Information

The Bentonville Schools Gifted and Talented Program, known as TREC (Think, Research, Explore, Create), supports students who demonstrate advanced ability, creativity, motivation, and potential. This page explains how students are referred, tested, reviewed for eligibility, and notified about placement decisions.

Who May Be Referred?

Testing and participation in GT/TREC services are available only to students currently enrolled in Bentonville Schools.

Students may be referred by a teacher, parent/guardian, peer, or the student. Parents/guardians may submit a referral at any time. Students will be scheduled for the next testing window for which they are eligible.

Second Grade Universal Screener

At the beginning of their 2nd grade year, all Bentonville 2nd grade students participate in a universal gifted screener. This helps the district identify students who may need additional evaluation for GT/TREC services.

The universal screener is separate from the parent referral form. Parents/guardians may still submit a referral if they believe their child should be considered for gifted testing.

How to Submit a Parent Referral

- 1. Talk with your child's teacher.**
Begin by discussing your child's strengths, learning needs, and classroom performance with the teacher. This conversation can help determine whether a referral is appropriate.
- 2. Complete the online Parent Referral Form.**
Use the referral link at the bottom of this document. Parent/guardian input is collected to help the district better understand the student, but parent input is not used as an identification score.

What Happens After a Referral Is Submitted?

After a referral is received, the following steps occur:

1. Referral received and logged.

The GT office receives the referral and schedules the student for the next appropriate testing window.

2. Teacher Rating Scale completed.

After a referral is submitted, the classroom teacher completes the Teacher Rating Scale as part of the full testing battery.

3. Assessments administered.

Gifted and Talented-certified teachers administer nationally normed assessments. Testing may take place across multiple days or weeks so students have appropriate time to complete each assessment.

4. District Identification Committee review.

After testing is complete, the District Identification Committee reviews the student's scores using Bentonville Schools gifted identification criteria.

5. Written notification sent to parents/guardians.

All parents/guardians will receive written notification after the committee review is complete. The notification will state whether the student qualifies for GT/TREC services.

Scores Used for Identification

Bentonville Schools uses multiple measures to determine gifted eligibility. A single test score does not determine placement. To be eligible for GT/TREC services, students must have a minimum of four qualifying scores from the areas below:

- Verbal Reasoning
- Nonverbal Reasoning
- Mathematical Reasoning
- Composite Score from verbal, nonverbal, and mathematical reasoning assessments
- Gifted Characteristics (Teacher Rating Scale)
- Motivation/Task Commitment (Teacher Rating Scale)
- Creative Reasoning

Parent/guardian input is helpful and is reviewed as part of the referral information; however, it is not used as an identification score.

Referral and Testing Windows

The testing windows below will be updated each school year. Students are tested during the next window for which they are eligible. All dates are subject to change.

Administration	Grades Included	Referral Period	Testing Window	Notes
Fall 2026	Grades 3-5	March 30-August 24, 2026	August 17-September 19, 2026	Students who qualify during this window typically begin TREC services after placement notification in late September 2026.
2nd Grade Universal Screener / Fall Review	Grade 2	June 30-September 8, 2026	August 17-October 23, 2026	All 2nd graders are screened; some students may complete additional testing. Students who qualify typically begin TREC services after placement notification in late October 2026.
Winter	Grades 2-5	September 9-October 23, 2026	October 26, 2026-January 7, 2027	Students who qualify during this window typically begin TREC services after placement notification in mid-January 2027.
Spring	Grades 2-5	October 26, 2026-March 12, 2027	March 30-May 14, 2027	Students who qualify during this window typically begin TREC services the following school year.
Fall 2027	Grades 3-5	March 13-August 21, 2027	August 17-September 25, 2027	Students who qualify during this window typically begin TREC services after placement notification in late September 2027.

Transfer Students

Students transferring from another district, private school, or homeschool must complete the Bentonville Schools gifted referral and testing process. Previous gifted identification does not automatically transfer. Transfer students are placed in the next available testing window and must meet Bentonville Schools criteria to qualify for GT/TREC services.

Score Validity and Retesting

- Gifted testing results are considered valid for one full calendar year for referral/retesting purposes.
- Students will not be retested before the end of the one-year validity period, even if another referral is submitted.

Grades K-1

Students in kindergarten and 1st grade are not formally tested for gifted eligibility. K-1 students participate in whole-group enrichment provided by classroom and GT teachers.

Submit a Referral

After reviewing the information above, parents/guardians may use the link below to submit a referral form.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A REFERRAL

[2026-2027 Parent Referral of GT/TREC Testing](#)