



Referrals and Eligibility for the Gifted Education Program

Bentonville Schools Gifted and Talented Program (TREC)

Teacher 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 teachers may refer students, what happens after a referral is submitted, how the Teacher Rating Scale is used, and how students are reviewed for eligibility.

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. Referrals may be submitted 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 teacher referral process. Teachers may still submit a referral if they believe a student should be considered for gifted testing.

How to Submit a Teacher Referral

1. Review the student's strengths and learning needs.

Consider whether the student consistently demonstrates advanced reasoning, creativity, problem solving, motivation, or potential beyond grade-level expectations.

2. Complete the online Teacher Referral Form.

Use the referral link at the bottom of this document. The Teacher Referral Form includes the Teacher Rating Scale, so please complete each rating carefully and include a written comment that gives the identification committee helpful context.

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.

For teacher referrals, the Teacher Rating Scale is completed as part of the teacher referral form. If a parent/guardian submits the referral, the classroom teacher will be asked to complete a separate Teacher Rating Scale.

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.

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

Teacher Rating Scale

Teacher input is an important part of the gifted and talented identification process. Your perspective helps the committee understand the student beyond test scores and classroom grades.

Teachers rate referred students in areas connected to gifted characteristics and motivation/task commitment. These ratings are used as part of the student's full testing battery and may contribute to the qualifying scores considered by the District Identification Committee.

Written comments are also important. Comments often provide essential insight, especially when a student's scores are close to the qualifying range. Please focus comments on observable student strengths, learning behaviors, problem-solving, creativity, motivation, and performance on challenging or open-ended tasks.

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

Teacher input is included through the Teacher Rating Scale and written comments. Parent/guardian input is reviewed as part of the referral information; however, parent input 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 scheduled for 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, teachers may use the link below to submit a referral form.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A TEACHER REFERRAL

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