

**Bentonville Public Schools
Gifted and Talented Program
TREC Center for Innovative Minds**

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do before submitting a referral?

Talk with your child's teacher about the teacher's observations, your child's classroom performance, and any advanced academic or learning needs you have noticed. Because students in grades 2–5 attend the TREC Center one day each week, you may also wish to discuss your child's readiness for the program.

You may review your child's available assessment results, including ATLAS scores. However, no single score or measure determines eligibility for gifted and talented services.

Does my second-grade child need a referral to be screened?

All second-grade students participate in a districtwide gifted-screening process. This allows the district to consider every second-grade student's potential, including students who have not been formally referred.

Students whose screening results indicate a need for additional assessment may be invited to complete a full battery of gifted identification testing. After all second-grade students have been screened, parents or guardians of those students will receive a consent form. Full testing will begin only after signed parent or guardian consent is received.

A parent or guardian, teacher, or school staff member may still submit a referral when advanced learning needs are observed.

Where can I find the referral form?

Visit the [Gifted and Talented webpage](#) on the Bentonville Schools website.

1. Select **Parent Referrals** on the right side of the page.
2. Open **Referral and Eligibility Information**.
3. Read the information carefully.
4. Complete and submit the referral form.

Individual confirmation emails are not sent after referrals are submitted. Please make sure all required fields are completed before selecting **Submit**.

What should I do to prepare my child for testing?

No special preparation is necessary. Encourage your child to get a good night's sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast.

When will my child be tested?

Testing may take place on any school day before the Identification Committee meets.

Because several assessments are administered, your child will be pulled from class for testing on multiple occasions.

What happens if my child is absent on a scheduled testing day?

Missed testing will be rescheduled before the Identification Committee meets.

If my child received gifted services in another district, will they automatically receive services in Bentonville Schools?

No. A student's previous gifted placement does not automatically result in placement in the Bentonville Schools Gifted and Talented Program.

Transfer students must be referred and meet Bentonville Schools' placement criteria. Assessment records from the student's previous district may be considered if the testing was completed within the past year and the assessments are comparable to those used by Bentonville Schools.

Because gifted programs and placement criteria vary among school districts, the services provided by Bentonville Schools may differ from those offered by the student's previous district.

Who determines whether my child needs gifted and talented services?

An Identification Committee reviews the available information and determines whether a student demonstrates an educational need for gifted and talented services beyond what the general education classroom typically provides.

The committee includes principals, assistant principals, school counselors, and teachers from across the district. The committee is chaired by a trained specialist in gifted education.

Placement decisions are based on a preponderance of data rather than on a single test score or piece of information.

What information does the Identification Committee consider?

The committee considers multiple sources of information to develop a well-rounded view of each student's strengths. These may include:

- Parent, guardian, teacher, or school-staff referrals
- Teacher rating scales and classroom observations of gifted characteristics
- Verbal-reasoning assessment results
- Nonverbal-reasoning assessment results
- Mathematical-reasoning assessment results
- Creative-thinking assessment results
- Other relevant educational information

How will I receive my child's assessment results?

Parents and guardians will be notified through **SchoolStatus** after the eligibility review process is complete. The notification will include the student's testing results and whether the student is eligible or ineligible for gifted and talented services.

Parents and guardians may contact Tracy Smart, Bentonville Schools Gifted and Talented Coordinator, at **479-418-7390** to schedule a conference to review and discuss their child's scores.

What if my child has an IEP or Section 504 Plan?

Testing accommodations documented in your child's current Individualized Education Program, or IEP, or Section 504 Plan will be followed for all testing administered by the gifted and talented staff.

Please indicate on the referral form that your child has an IEP or Section 504 Plan so staff members can review the documented accommodations and prepare appropriately.

Can my child be retested if they do not qualify?

Yes, but the student cannot be tested again for one year because of test-validity requirements.

After one year has passed, either the parent or the teacher must submit a new referral.

What services are provided to students in grades 2-5?

Students who qualify for gifted services attend TREC one day each week. TREC stands for **Think, Research, Explore, Create**.

Students participate in advanced learning experiences designed to extend and enrich the regular classroom curriculum. Instruction emphasizes high-level thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and hands-on interdisciplinary learning.

Identified students in grades 2–5 are transported by bus from their home campuses to the TREC Center on the R. E. Baker Elementary School campus.

Are gifted enrichment services provided on students' home campuses?

Yes. Gifted specialists provide enrichment services on students' home campuses.

In kindergarten and first grade, a gifted specialist visits each classroom once a month to provide enrichment activities for all students.

In grades 2–4, gifted specialists may provide additional enrichment support to small groups of students who are not identified for gifted services. These groups meet once a week, as needed, based on students' learning needs.

What gifted and talented services are available after fifth grade?

Gifted and talented services in grades 6–12 are provided through a variety of advanced learning opportunities, which may include advanced coursework, acceleration, seminars, concurrent credit, International Baccalaureate courses, and mentorship opportunities. Available services vary by grade level and school.

For current course offerings and eligibility requirements, families should consult their child's school counselor or the district course guide.

What is the weekly TREC schedule for grades 2–5?

- **Tuesday:** Grade 2
- **Wednesday:** Grade 3
- **Thursday:** Grade 4
- **Friday:** Grade 5

Once my child is placed in the program, will they be required to retest each year to remain in the program?

No. Students are not required to retest to remain in the program.

Continued participation is based on their performance while participating in the program. These are ongoing, performance-based assessments.

Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

Tracy Smart

Bentonville Schools Gifted and Talented Coordinator

479-418-7390

Where is the TREC Center located?

The TREC Center for Innovative Minds is located on the R. E. Baker Elementary School campus in Bentonville.

TREC Center for Innovative Minds

301 NW Third Street

Bentonville, AR 72712