

Gifted & Talented



LAKEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Gifted & Talented Program Handbook

Kindergarten - Grade 12

Program Criteria, Description, and Goals

2026-2027

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In collaboration with the classroom teachers and other stakeholders, the G&T Teacher will create a schedule for each school and grade level. Grades 1-12 G&T classes will convene from October through June, and Kindergarten will convene from February through June. Classes will be scheduled weekly for forty minutes. The G&T Curriculum was designed to address the needs of our gifted and twice-exceptional students. Students will be assessed throughout the program, but grades will not be provided on the report card for this class. Parents must sign off on a *consent-to-participate* form so their child can participate in the pull-out services.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Gifted & Talented program is designed to meet the needs of students requiring enrichment in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Lakewood Public School District strives to:

- Challenge gifted and talented students who demonstrate a need for rigor beyond the regular curriculum for their grade level.
- Provide an environment that encourages the development of critical thinking skills such as analysis, evaluation, synthesis, and complex problem-solving strategies.
- Provide an environment that encourages divergent thinking and supports the development of originality, fluency, flexibility, and elaboration.
- Develop confidence in expressing ideas in discussions and written form.
- Provide students with opportunities to develop leadership skills through positive group interaction.
- Encourage a lifelong commitment to independent learning.
- The G&T program promotes an increase of metacognitive awareness in:

- ELA: applying comprehension strategies, synthesizing information from multiple sources across various genres, engaging in discussions based on textual analysis and evaluation, and responding to literature in sophisticated written form.
- Math: utilizing number sense strategies, applying multiple skills to model and solve real-world scenarios, participating in mathematical discourse with a focus on defending or supporting a conjecture, generalizing mathematical processes and procedures, and strengthening conceptual understanding of mathematical principles and ideas.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Kindergarten Math G&T CRITERIA

In the Fall, all students in Kindergarten will be assessed via the monthly Istation ISIP and district unit math assessments. Students with the highest ISIP scores in the grade level along with unit assessment scores above 90 will be analyzed and the top 7-15 students will be selected to participate in the Math G&T program for Grade K.

Grades 1-5 Math G&T CRITERIA

At the start of each school year, all students in Grades 1-5 will be assessed via the Istation Diagnostic and the Beginning of the Year Math Assessment. Students with the highest ISIP scores in the grade level will be considered. The BoY assessment along with the End of Year diagnostic from the previous year will be used as supporting data along with teacher input, if necessary. The top 7-15 students will be selected to participate in the Math G&T program for Grades 1-5.

6-8 Math G&T CRITERIA

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
iReady EoY Level	Overall Placement On or Above Grade Level	Overall Placement On or Above Grade Level	Number and Operations (NO) & Algebra and Algebraic Thinking (ALG) Placement On or Above Grade Level
Average of Math Unit Test Scores	90% or higher	90% or higher	90% or higher
Math Final Exam Score	85% or higher	85% or higher	85% or higher
Teacher Recommendation	Considered	Considered	Considered
Previous Spring NJSLA Scores	1473 or higher	1510 or higher	1536 or higher

*Students must meet a minimum of 3 criteria.

9-12 Math G&T CRITERIA

Students already in the Honors / G&T program must maintain an A average to continue in the G&T program. Teachers can recommend new students to the program provided the student has earned a high A average in the prerequisite course(s).

In June of the previous school year, math teachers submitted written recommendations for incoming 9-12 student placement in the G&T courses. Final grades were used to substantiate the recommendations. Recommendations and final grades were reviewed for selection into the G&T program.

K-2 ELA G&T CRITERIA

In September, DIBELS student performance and Lexia Core 5 level results will be used to rank students. The top 7-15 students per grade level will be identified for G&T services. Once students are identified, the G&T teacher will consult with pertinent teachers to confirm their suitability for the services. Kindergarten students will follow the same process except that they will be placed in the program with a February start date based on the MOY testing conducted in January.

3-5 ELA G&T CRITERIA

At the start of each school year, all students in Grades 3-5 will be assessed via *Lexia Core 5* and the *Beginning of Year ELA Assessment*. Students with the highest scores in the grade level at the school level will be considered. *The Beginning of Year Assessment* will be used as supporting data along with teacher input, if necessary. The top 7-15 students per grade level will be identified for G&T services for Grades 3-5.

6-8 ELA G&T CRITERIA

ELA Criteria	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
I-Ready EoY (ELA)	Overall Placement On or Above Grade Level	Overall Placement On or Above Grade Level	Overall Placement On or Above Grade Level
EoY / Final Assessment	90+	90+	90+
CommonLit Post Test	225+	225+	225+
Final Grade (ELA)	90+	90+	90+
Teacher Recommendation	Considered	Considered	Considered
Previous Spring NJSLA Scores	Minimum of 1496	Minimum of 1510	Minimum of 1520

Students must meet a minimum of 3 of the first 5 criteria minimums

9-12 ELA G&T CRITERIA

Students already in the Honors / G&T program must maintain an A average to continue in the G&T program. Teachers can recommend new students to the program provided the student has earned a high A average in the prerequisite course(s).

ASSESSMENTS

K-5 ASSESSMENTS

All G&T K-5 students will be progress monitored using the district's Universal Screening instruments (DIBELS/Lectura, and Lexia Core 5) three times per year. In addition, students will be formatively assessed via checks for understanding, independent work, assignments, projects, quizzes, and participation.

6-12 ASSESSMENTS

Unit assessments on course content will be administered 3 times per marking period. In addition, students will be formatively assessed via Checks for Understanding, DoLs, written assignments, homework, and class participation. All students will take a benchmark assessment at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. Assessment data will be analyzed by the teacher and shared with students and administration to promote discourse, determine student success in the course, and inform interventions and supports.

2026-2027 Lakewood Public Schools

Gifted & Talented Math Program

Permission to Participate

The Lakewood School District is proud to inform you that your child has been selected to participate in the Gifted & Talented Program for **Math**.

Students selected for this program have been identified as exceptional by performing as one of the top students in their grade level (per school) on key math assessments. These students demonstrate readiness for advanced and accelerated learning opportunities and will receive additional academic challenges to reach their potential and continue to grow and progress.

By signing this form, you consent for your child to join the district's Gifted & Talented Program for one period on a weekly basis. The program is scheduled to begin in the next week or so. Please return this signed permission slip as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding this program please contact your child's school.

Name of Child:	
School:	
Grade:	Teacher:

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

2026-2027 Escuelas públicas de Lakewood
Programa para estudiantes dotados y talentosos
Permiso para participar

El Distrito Escolar de Lakewood se enorgullece de informarle que su hijo ha sido seleccionado para participar en el Programa de **Matemáticas** para Estudiantes Dotados y Talentosos.

Los estudiantes seleccionados para este programa han sido identificados como excepcionales al desempeñarse como uno de los mejores estudiantes en su nivel de grado (por escuela) en evaluaciones clave de matemáticas. Estos estudiantes demuestran estar preparados para oportunidades de aprendizaje avanzadas y aceleradas y recibirán desafíos académicos adicionales para alcanzar su potencial y continuar creciendo y progresando.

Al firmar este formulario, usted da su consentimiento para que su hijo se una al Programa de Dotados y Talentosos del distrito durante un período semanal. El programa está programado para comenzar la próxima semana. Devuelva este formulario de permiso firmado lo antes posible.

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este programa, comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo.

Nombre del niño:	
Escuela:	
Grado:	Maestro/a:

Firma de los padres: _____ Fecha: _____

**2026-2027 Lakewood Public Schools
Gifted & Talented ELA Program
Permission to Participate**

The Lakewood School District is proud to inform you that your child has been selected to participate in the Gifted & Talented Program for **ELA**.

Students selected for this program have been identified as exceptional by performing as one of the top students in their grade level (per school) on key ELA assessments. These students demonstrate readiness for advanced and accelerated learning opportunities and will receive additional academic challenges to reach their potential and continue to grow and progress.

By signing this form, you consent for your child to join the district's Gifted & Talented Program for one period on a weekly basis. The program is scheduled to begin in the next week or so. Please return this signed permission slip as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding this program please contact your child's school.

Name of Child:	
School:	
Grade:	Teacher:

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

2026-2027 Escuelas públicas de Lakewood
Programa para estudiantes dotados y talentosos
Permiso para participar

El Distrito Escolar de Lakewood se enorgullece de informarle que su hijo ha sido seleccionado para participar en el Programa de **la Lengua y Literatura Inglesa** para Estudiantes Dotados y Talentosos.

Los estudiantes seleccionados para este programa han sido identificados como excepcionales al desempeñarse como uno de los mejores estudiantes en su nivel de grado (por escuela) en evaluaciones clave de la Lengua y Literatura Inglesa. Estos estudiantes demuestran estar preparados para oportunidades de aprendizaje avanzadas y aceleradas y recibirán desafíos académicos adicionales para alcanzar su potencial y continuar creciendo y progresando.

Al firmar este formulario, usted da su consentimiento para que su hijo se una al Programa de Dotados y Talentosos del distrito durante un período semanal. El programa está programado para comenzar la próxima semana. Devuelva este formulario de permiso firmado lo antes posible.

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este programa, comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo.

Nombre del niño:	
Escuela:	
Grado:	Maestro/a:

Firma de los padres: _____ Fecha: _____

