



Gifted and Talented Frequently Asked Questions

Things to consider...

You are the one who will decide whether or not you would like to have your child tested for the GT program. This decision is a serious one, so consider it carefully. The process for GT program participation begins at the campus, and the campus counselors or GT facilitators serve as the direct conduit of information with parents regarding student identification and placement in GT services.

Read the Inventory of Student Traits to be submitted with the GT Referral form. If you see in your child many of the traits listed, you may want to have your child tested. However, if you do not see many of these traits, you may prefer that your child not be tested at this time.

Will my child enjoy GT testing?

Some children love the challenges presented by GT testing while others feel that it is a very stressful experience. For this reason, it is very important to consider carefully whether or not your child should be tested.

What kinds of tests will my child be taking?

Your child's academic needs will be assessed by a variety of criteria that may include abilities tests, portfolio items, and observations collected by the campus G/T facilitator and/or counselor. Students usually will be tested in groups. The tests are timed. The testing takes approximately three hours, but it will be broken up over several sessions.

What happens after the evaluation?

After your child has completed the assessments/activities, the results will be evaluated, and the district GT Committee will make a decision concerning his or her most appropriate educational placement. During the decision process, students are identified by a number. No names are used in the committee decision process. Parents are then informed of committee decisions. Results will be sent home.

What happens if my child is identified as gifted and talented?

For the elementary program, your child will be placed in a clustered classroom with a teacher who is trained to meet the needs of gifted and talented students. As a result, your child will have the opportunity to work with his or her gifted peers on a daily basis. Each week, the campus G/T Facilitator will supplement your child's classroom instruction with specialized G/T services or "pullout." These services will incorporate the development of higher-level thinking and problem solving skills, as well as special-interest projects related to language arts, math, science, and social studies. These skills will help your child in his/her academic and social/emotional development.

At the secondary level, the students are placed in a designated GT elective course, Critical Thinking through Cultural Awareness. As a result, your child will have the opportunity to work with his or her gifted peers on a daily basis. These services will incorporate the development of higher-level thinking and problem solving skills, as well as special-interest projects related to language arts, math, science, and social studies. These skills will help your child in his/her academic and social/emotional development.

When will GT services begin?

Services for identified students will begin in January for students in grades 1-8, and on or before March 1st for kindergarten students.

What happens if my child is not identified for the GT program?

Your child will continue to have his or her needs met in the regular classroom. You are welcome to refer your child to be tested for the GT program again next year. Students may be considered for the CISD Gifted & Talented Education Program only once within a 12-month period.

May I see the testing results?

Yes, you may contact the GT Facilitator or campus counselor on your child's campus to review the results.