

Gifted and Talented

What is Giftedness?

Children are gifted when their ability is significantly above the norm for their age. There is not universal agreement on a definition of what it means to be gifted. Also, students from differing backgrounds may demonstrate their giftedness in differing manners. It is important to note that not all gifted children look or act alike. Giftedness exists in every demographic group and personality type. It is important that adults look hard to discover potential and support gifted children as they reach for their personal best.

Gifted Education Strategies

Gifted and talented students and those with high abilities need gifted education programs that will challenge them in regular classroom settings and enrichment and accelerated programs to enable them to make continuous progress in school. Gifted students have different needs from their general peers. Some of these include:

Challenging Learning Situations	Cognitively Complex Levels of Thought	Solicitation of Divergent Thoughts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem Solving• Decision Making	Tasks that Require Sustained Concentration
Systematic Inquiry	Integration of Information & Ideas	Discussions with Intellectual Peers	Challenge in Areas of Strength & Interest
Purposeful Critical Thinking	Coping with Exceptionality	Leadership	Opportunities to Apply Knowledge & Abilities to Real Problems

Certification Requirements

Teachers are required to have completed the thirty (30) hours of professional development prior to their assignment, if not then within the semester of servicing gifted students (19 TAC§89.2(1)). Teachers who have completed the required 30 hours will receive a minimum of six (6) hours annually of professional development in gifted/talented education that is related to state (19 TAC §89.2(3) and TAC §233.1). Please visit Connect 20 to see upcoming sessions. <https://txr20.escworks.net/search.aspx?SearchCriteria=GT>

Programs and Services

Elementary/Intermediate	Middle School	High School
<p>Pull-Out Programs Instruction at the elementary level (grades K-5) is achieved through a pull-out program and students identified to receive G/T services are provided accelerated instruction in all four core areas. Instruction and activities will align to district G/T standards that support critical content standards in Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science.</p> <p>Scheduling will be individualized per each campus to best meet the needs of the G/T students. Students served in this program will not be penalized for missing regular classroom time. The elementary G/T facilitators will coordinate with classroom teachers to address issues of assignments and grades. Students served through this pull-out program will not be penalized for missing regular classroom time.</p>	<p>PreAP, Humanities, Pre Biology Students at the middle school level (grades 6-8) may be scheduled into Humanities, Pre Biology, and/or Pre-AP Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics and/or Science classes. All options follow grade-level Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKs) but are academically advanced courses designed to challenge gifted and/or motivated students to understand the rigorous content.</p> <p><u>Humanities</u> combines Language Arts/Social Studies block focusing on interdisciplinary instruction, critical thinking, and advanced academics. Students are expected to communicate mastery of Social Studies content through mastery of the ELA standards.</p> <p><u>Pre Biology</u> compacts and Accelerates 6th-8th grade Science TEKs, and students will then take PreAP Biology in 8th grade.</p>	<p>PreAP, AP, Colloquium, Dual Credit Students at the high school level (grades 9-12) have several options for their G/T service: Colloquium, Pre-AP, AP and Dual Credit college courses.</p> <p><u>Colloquium</u> is a Language Arts and Social Studies blend (Humanities) based on interdisciplinary studies of the two disciplines. Gifted students are also serviced through a variety of Pre-AP, AP and Dual Credit options.</p> <p><u>AP courses</u> are collegiate-level courses taught in a high school setting possibly cumulating to the taking of an AP exam where a qualifying score of a 3 or higher may enable students to receive college credit and/or advanced standings at a university or college.</p> <p><u>Dual Credit</u> is a college-level course taught in a high school setting or can be taken at the college or university while still in high school.</p>

Identification

High Achiever	Gifted
Remembers the answers	Poses unforeseen questions
Answers questions in detail	Ponders with depth and multiple perspectives
Performs at the top of the group	Is beyond the group
Is receptive	Is intense
Absorbs information	Manipulates information
Gets A's	Not motivated by grades

Identification Procedure

1. Refer students during the referral window
2. Obtain parent permission to test
3. Collect qualitative and quantitative data through testing, student artifacts, and teacher/parent checklists
4. Campus Screening Committees will meet to review all data and determine placement of students

Visit Advanced Academics/GT Curriculum Toolkit for [Timeline and more information](#).

