

Katy ISD Gifted and Talented Awareness Session

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Agenda

- Welcome
- What Does Being Gifted & Talented Mean?
- Characteristics of a Gifted Child
- Overview of Gifted Program Services
- Screening/Identification Process
- How to Refer Your Child
- Completing the Parent Checklist
- Questions & Answers

Texas State Definition of Gifted/Talented Students

In this subchapter, “gifted and talented student” means a child or youth who performs at or shows the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment and who:

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- 1. exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area**
 - 2. possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or**
 - 3. excels in a specific academic field**

Source: TEA, *Texas State Plan and Guidelines for the Education of the Gifted/Talented*, Austin, TX

Characteristics of a Gifted Child

High Achiever

- Knows the answers
- Learns with ease
- Completes assignment
- Enjoys school
- Absorbs information
- Good memorizer
- Pleased with own learning.

Gifted Learner

- Asks the questions
- Already knows
- Initiates projects
- Enjoys learning
- Manipulates information
- Good guesser
- Is highly self-critical

Texas State Plan

- Establishes the expectation that the screening criteria for a district's program match the program design.
- Students who are identified should have the expectation of success in the program.
- Each district has its own identification requirements for the district GT program.

Elementary GT Program Overview: Challenge

- “Pull-out” model – identified children leave the regular classroom one day per week
- The Challenge class may include multiple grade levels on campuses with small GT enrollment
 - For example, 1st and 2nd grade on one day; 3-5th grade on another
- Focus on general intellectual ability
- Theme-based advanced curriculum:
 - High Interest Units
 - Creative Problem Solving
 - Questioning strategies
 - Field trips
 - Independent study

Questions Parents Ask About the Elementary Program

- **How is my child evaluated in Challenge ?**
 - Competencies are recorded on the report card each grading period: *Excellent, Satisfactory, Needs Improvement, Unsatisfactory.*
 - Areas evaluated: Skill Development, Task Commitment and Independence/Self- directed Learning.
 - Evaluations are relative to what is expected of gifted children in the Challenge classroom
 - No formal letter grades

Questions Parents Ask About the Elementary Program

- **What happens in the regular classroom when my child is in Challenge?**
- Classroom teachers have an opportunity to provide additional practice that gifted learners typically do not require for mastery.

Questions Parents Ask About the Elementary Program

- **Is my child expected to make up work that is missed while in Challenge?**
- Students are responsible for homework assignments that are given to the entire class, but are not responsible for the assignments completed during class time.

Secondary Gifted Program Overview

- Specific Subject Matter Aptitude:
 - Language Arts
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies
- Pre-AP/AP differentiated curriculum
- Students identified for service in one or more areas
- Weighted GPA for courses designated Pre-AP/GT or AP/GT

Questions Parents Ask About the Secondary Program

- **Is GT “more work”?**
 - GT students should not receive assignments “in addition to” the standard assignments, but may receive assignments “in lieu of” the standard assignments. Replacement assignments are typically more open ended and flexible in the way students demonstrates their learning.

- **I understand that most GT secondary students are clustered in Pre-AP classes. What is the advantage of GT identification in that situation?**
- GT identification is designed to address the particular educational needs of the gifted learner.
- The teacher must have 30 hours of GT training
- The teacher is aware of the GT identification and can address unique needs of gifted learners in that class.
- GT students are part of a learning community that can help meet their social/emotional and intellectual needs.
- A cluster of GT students in a class creates a unique dynamic in the classroom that is evidenced by the dialogue and the depth of the conversation in the class.

Questions Parents Ask About the Secondary Program

- **Is it advisable to take all PreAP/ GT classes?**
- It depends on the strengths and interests of the individual child.
- **What if my student is not identified in all areas?**
- Students may enroll in PreAP classes or appropriate academic classes. Screening for service in additional areas may be requested in the spring of each year.

Questions Parents Ask About the Secondary Program

- **My child is approved for a GT course for next year, but we decide not to enroll in that course that grade. Can my child enroll in that GT course in the next grade?**
- No. Your child will have to be screened for that content area during the spring screening window in the next school year for service in the following school year.

Additional Options

- **Destination Imagination (all levels)**
- **KPGT activities and events**
- **TAGT Summer Scholarship Opportunity (all levels)**
- **Independent Studies Elective (7-12)**
- **Academic Pentathlon (J.H.)**
- **Academic Decathlon & Octathlon (H.S.)**
- **PACE Mentorship Program (12th)**

Katy ISD Identification Procedures:

Screening

Multiple criteria must be considered:

- **Qualitative** measures include:
 - Parent checklist
 - Classroom Observation
- **Quantitative** measures include:
 - Ability test scores (normed by age)
 - Achievement test scores (normed by grade level)
 - Intelligence test scores (Part of grade 1-4 screening)
- Four/Five criteria must be met for elementary.
- Three/Four criteria must be met for secondary.

How To Refer Your Child

- Pick up the appropriate (Elem. or Sec.) Parent Checklist (referral form) from your campus or from the KISD website—www.katyisd.org
- Return the form to the campus counselor, the Challenge teacher, or the G/T facilitator at your child's campus.
- Deadline for grades **1-4—December 12**
- Deadlines for grades **6-11—January 9**

How To Refer Your Child

- Returning the Parent Checklist is the first step in the screening process.
- The signature on the Parent Checklist authorizes the district to screen the child for the GT program and serve the child in the program if identified.
- Testing takes place at each campus during the school day. Parents of elementary students receive notification of a general testing window.

Completing the Parent Checklist:

Read the directions on the *Parent Checklist* carefully and answer each question as fairly as you can.

Note that giving a score of "3" or "4" requires you to provide specific examples; otherwise a score of "2" will be given.

My child . . .

Shows active interest in the world around him/her.

1

2

3

4

Jane has an intense curiosity about how things work, nature and current events. She enjoys watching the Discovery Channel and reading non-fiction books such as Birds of the Southwest.

Screening occurs at the Campus

- Elementary—GT Test Proctor
- Secondary—GT Facilitator
- If the student is well enough to be at school, they are prepared to take the screening assessments.

Identification Procedures: Selection

- The campus selection committee meets to evaluate the indicators and determine appropriate placement.
- The campus selection committee is typically made up of an administrator, the GT Facilitator and a counselor; all members must have training in the Nature and Needs of Gifted Learners.
- No single indicator guarantees acceptance or non-acceptance.
- Parents are notified of the decision by U.S. mail when all screening is complete.
- Process in place to file formal concerns regarding the placement decision.

- Children who are identified are not screened again each year, as long as they are experiencing success in the program.
- GT Facilitators work with parents to determine the best fit for students moving into the Secondary program from the Challenge program.
- Students who are not identified may be referred for screening again in subsequent years.
- Students identified for the KISD GT program who leave the district will be reinstated to the KISD GT program upon their return IF within the same level (elementary to elementary; secondary to secondary)

More Questions and Answers

Q: What if my child is not successful in the program?

A: Contact the GT facilitator about exit policies.

Q: Can my child leave the program?

A: Yes; students can formally exit the program or furlough from the program.

Q: What is a furlough?

A: A temporary exit from a GT course for specific reasons detailed in KISD board policy, such as a schedule conflict. Furloughs are limited to a specific timeframe.

More Questions and Answers

Q: What if I disagree with the placement decision?

A: Contact the campus GT Facilitator within 15 school days of receiving your notification letter.

Q: What if I have questions about junior high or high school courses?

A: Contact the counselor or GT facilitator at the campus. Attend course selection nights at secondary campuses.

More Questions and Answers

Q: What if we move to a different school in Katy ISD or my child is affected by changes in attendance zones?

A: Students identified for the KISD GT Program at one campus will join the GT Program at their new campus.



If you have any questions about the screening process for your child, contact:

- 1. the elementary Challenge teacher or Secondary G/T facilitator**
- 2. Counselor at your child's school**



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G/T Links

- www.katyisd.org
 - Departments/GT and Advanced Academic Studies
- KPGT: www.kpgt.org
- TAGT: www.txgifted.org
- NAGC: www.nagc.org



This presentation will be posted on the Katy ISD website:

www.katyisd.org

Departments/GT and Advanced Academics

Thank you for attending this session.