



**TERRELL ISD
GIFTED AND TALENTED PROCEDURES**

Terrell ISD believes, along with the Texas Education Agency, that the goal for G/T students is to ensure that those students who participate in G/T services demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication. G/T students develop innovative products and sophisticated performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are targeted to an audience outside the classroom.

A gifted/talented student is 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

- exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area;
- possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or
- excels in a specific academic field. (Texas Education Code §29.121)

TISD's Gifted and Talented model is one based on students excelling in a specific academic field and seeks to nurture that ability. This direction aligns with the District's first Guiding Pillar - Expect teachers to deliver and students to engage in rigorous learning for high student achievement.

TISD's gifted and talented programs are designed to challenge the gifted learner who demonstrates the need for an augmented curriculum. Typically, gifted students differ from their age peers in three important ways. First, they absorb and transfer information at a faster rate and process it very efficiently. Second, they are often able to comprehend information with greater depth than their classmates, showing greater insight and understanding. Third, they often have an interest that is more typical of older children or even adults. These three learning differences are frequently enhanced by other complementary characteristics: independence, persistence, nonconformity, and motivation.

Each school has a site-based gifted and talented committee composed of teachers, counselors and/or administrators trained in gifted education who review data and make placement decisions based on the following:

- selection of potentially gifted students who would function near the top of the district's population when compared to their peers, and demonstrate educational need for the learning environment provided by gifted and talented support,
- ability to function in an environment which requires self-motivation and independence.

Multiple criteria are used which include both quantitative and qualitative measures. The following are used to determine eligibility:

- a district-approved aptitude test score received within the past two years
 - achievement tests
 - other available test data
 - observable characteristics of the gifted and talented student
 - classroom performance as evaluated by the committee
 - Parent inventory
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- Terrell ISD Gifted and Talented Identification Procedures
 - Terrell ISD Gifted and Talented Services and Provisions

Terrell ISD Gifted and Talented Identification Procedures

1. All Terrell ISD kindergarten students will be evaluated for gifted and talented services in the winter of their kindergarten year. For all other grades, referral forms to request this evaluation for gifted and talented services are made available to all teachers, parents, and students throughout the school year. (See counselor or this site for the Nomination Form, Teacher Observation Form, etc.). Terrell ISD does not offer assessment services to the general public, only registered Terrell ISD students.
2. Evaluation for gifted and talented services will be conducted only during the specified testing windows. Testing windows are October and February each school year.
3. Once a student has been referred for gifted and talented testing, administrators at each campus will request Teacher Observation Reports from each of the student's teachers.
3. All referred students are tested in their primary language or using nonverbal assessments.
4. All available information is placed on the Student Profile Matrix. The Student Profile Matrix acts as a collection of student information and allows the Campus Selection Committee to view data results as a whole.
5. Campus Selection Committees (elementary and secondary) meet to review nominations and make decisions on each student. Members include administrators, counselors, and classroom teachers. All members meet the requirements for gifted and talented training set by TEA.
6. The Campus Selection Committees adopt a holistic review process of student data, evaluating both quantitative testing data and qualitative data gathered from teachers. Students with multiple scores in the 90th percentile are considered for automatic qualification for gifted and talented services. A single score at or above the 90th percentile or multiple scores just below the 90th percentile must be accompanied by strong qualitative data for placement considerations. Terrell ISD also considers local norms from each campus to determine what scores the 90th percentile at each campus score on assessments to ensure that all variables are considered.

7. If the Campus Selection Committee deems further assessment is necessary, the campus counselor will gather that information.

8. Parents are notified of committee decisions through regular mail or through a letter handed directly to the student. This letter will include all assessment data used in determining the placement decision.

NOTE: Being identified for gifted and talented services does not automatically qualify a student for enrollment in the Global Leadership Academy (GLA.) The GLA is considered a campus of choice for students in grades K-5 and requires a separate application in addition to GT identification. The application process for GLA opens during the Spring open enrollment period for the district.

APPEALS

Appeals will be handled in a manner consistent with TISD's local policy (EHBB Local). A parent, student, or educator may appeal any final decision of the selection committee regarding selection for or exit from the gifted and talented program. Appeals shall be made first to the selection committee. Any subsequent appeals shall be made in accordance with FNG(LOCAL) beginning at Level Two

Terrell ISD Gifted and Talented Services and Provisions

Elementary GT Services

Students identified for gifted and talented services will be served by a gifted and talented trained or certified teacher on their home campus. Students will be able to work both individually and collaboratively with other students who have been identified for the program. Assignments will focus on critical and creative thinking processes using cross-curricular activities from Texas Performance Standards Project and Depth and Complexity Framework. Students who are eligible for gifted and talented services in the Global Leadership Academy will be served in their regular classroom through differentiated instruction, Depth and Complexity Framework and Genius Hour (Project Based Learning.)

Secondary GT Services

Students in grades 6-12 will be served through the Advanced Academics (formerly Pre-AP) courses, Advanced Placement classes, and Dual Credit programs. These programs provide a rigorous course of study aimed at ensuring students develop and hone skills to be successful on the Advanced Placement exams and earn college credit.

Transfers to TISD

Students who transfer with documentation of their Gifted and Talented status from another district will continue to be served as a Gifted and Talented student in whatever model fits their grade level. If a student has not been previously identified, they may request to be evaluated for Gifted and Talented services through the District's referral process. Testing will be completed within 30 days after receiving the referral for testing. Students will be tested using the most appropriate assessment. Previous testing will be reviewed as well.

Furloughs

The District may place on a furlough any student who is unable to maintain satisfactory performance or whose educational needs are not being met within the structure of the

gifted and talented program. A furlough may be initiated by the District, the parent, or the student.

In accordance with the Board-approved program, a furlough shall be granted for specified reasons and for a specified period of time. At the end of a furlough, the student may reenter the gifted and talented program, be placed on another furlough, or be exited from the program.

Exit Procedures

The District shall monitor student performance in response to gifted and talented program services. If at any time the selection committee or a parent determines it is in the best interest of the student to exit the program, the committee shall meet with the parent and student before finalizing an exit decision.



TERRELL ISD

Expect More, Achieve More

Parent G/T Exit Request from Terrell ISD Gifted and Talented Program

Student's Name _____ ID# _____

Date of Birth _____ Campus _____ Grade _____

Exit Request

Exit Procedures

The following occurrences can move a student into step 1 of the exit procedure:

- 1. Failure to submit at least 90% of all assigned work in the Gifted and Talented Program.*
- 2. Failure to comply in the Gifted and Talented Program with behavioral expectations listed in The Student Code of Conduct.*
- 3. Request by parent to exit student from the Gifted and Talented Program.*

The exit procedure is a three step process as outlined below:

- Step 1: Student/Parent is notified (Documentation is required.).*
- Step 2: Conference is held with parent and student (Documentation is required.).*
- Step 3: Dismissal will be requested by the G/T district committee with parent and student notification (Documentation is required.).*

It is my wish to have my child withdrawn from the Terrell ISD Gifted and Talented Program

Reason(s) for leaving the program;

I understand that if a student through parent choice voluntarily withdraws from the Terrell ISD Gifted and Talented Program that he/she may reenter the program through the nomination process no earlier than the beginning of the next school year by re-qualifying in the identification process.

Parent's Printed Name _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

GT/Personnel Submitting Form _____ Phone # _____ Date _____

Exit of GT Program Approved by:

Gifted & Talented Rep. Signature _____ Date _____

Dr. Tracie Pritchett, K-8 Advanced Academic Coordinator