



Could my child be gifted?

...

A basic guide to giftedness, assessment,
and the Gainesville ISD program of services

What does “gifted” mean?

The Texas Education Agency defines giftedness as:

“...a child or youth that 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
- excels in a specific academic field

(Texas Education Code 29.121)

A reminder from TAGT: “...it is crucial to emphasize that being identified as gifted and talented is not a badge of honor, not a reason for bragging, nor a reward for good behavior. It is an educational need.”

What does “gifted” mean?

In Gainesville, our Gifted and Talented program currently services those students that excel in a specific academic field and/or show high performance capability in an intellectual area.

At this time, we are unable to test for and service artistic abilities or leadership skills.

However, we do offer art classes at every grade level and offer various leadership opportunities on our campuses for the students to participate in. If you need help fulfilling this need, please contact your campus's G/T teacher.

How do I know if my child should be tested?

Your child may:

- Understand subjects far beyond their peers
- Show extreme emotional depth and sensitivity
- Have many questions and curiosities
- Be very enthusiastic about unique topics and interests
- Be behind their peers socially and may prefer talking to adults
- Absorb information quickly and feel annoyed by repetition
- Feel strongly about worldly issues
- Solve problems creatively and have a huge imagination

High Achiever vs. Gifted vs. Creative

Many gifted students are also high achievers. However, many are not and they may be easily overlooked. The following chart provides information about distinguishing characteristics of high achievers, gifted learners, and creative thinkers.

<i>A High Achiever...</i>	<i>A Gifted Learner...</i>	<i>A Creative Thinker...</i>
Remembers the answer	Poses unforeseen questions	Sees exceptions
Is interested	Is curious	Wonders
Is attentive	Is selectively mentally engaged	Daydreams; may seem off task
Generates advanced ideas	Generates complex abstract ideas	Ideas overflow; many never developed.
Works hard to achieve	Knows without working hard	Plays with ideas and concepts
Answers the questions in detail	Ponders with depth and multiple perspectives	Injects new possibilities
Performs at the top of the group	Is beyond the group	Is in own group
Responds with interest and opinions	Exhibits feelings and opinions from multiple perspectives	Shares bizarre, sometime conflicting opinions
Learns with ease	Already knows	Questions: What if...
Needs 6 to 8 repetitions to master	Needs 1 to 3 repetitions to master	Questions the need for mastery
Comprehends at a high level	Comprehends in-depth, complex ideas	Comprehends in-depth, complex ideas
Enjoys the company of age peers	Prefers company of intellectual peers	Prefers the company of creative peers but often works alone
Understands complex, abstract humor	Creates complex, abstract humor	Relishes wild, off-the-wall humor
Grasps the meaning	Infers and connects concepts	Makes mental leaps
Completes assignments on time	Initiates projects and extensions of assignments	Initiates more projects than will ever be complete
Is receptive	Is intense	Is independent and unconventional
Is accurate and complete	Is original and continually developing	Is original and continually developing
Enjoys school often	Enjoys self-directed learning	Enjoys creating
Absorbs information	Manipulates information	Improvises
Is a technician with expertise in a field	Expert who abstracts beyond the field	In an inventor and idea generator
Memorizes well	Guesses and infers well	Creates and brainstormes well
Is highly alert and observant	Anticipates and relates observations	Is intuitive
Is pleased with own learning	Is self-critical	Is never finished with possibilities
Gets A's	May not be motivated by grades	Is not motivated by grades
Is able	Is intellectual	Is idiosyncratic



I need to refer my child for testing. How do I do that?

Please click on the link below. You'll be taken to the district G/T page where you will find referral information.

[Curriculum & Instruction / Gifted & Talented](#)

At the end of the referral form, you'll be asked to complete a Parent Survey that will give us valuable information about your child. You'll also be asked to complete and sign a Permission to Test form. Please make sure you return the Permission form to the appropriate person **BY THE DUE DATE** listed on the form.

REFERRALS MUST BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 30 FOR SPRING TESTING.

Late applications will carry over to be tested the following school year.

I referred my child and filled out the required forms. What's next?

1) **Testing:**

Students will take a series of tests that measure their reasoning abilities. Two or three testing sessions are usually required and are scheduled during the months of January and February.

2) **Committee:**

Once all testing results are received, the campus G/T committee meets in order to review the findings and determine placement.

3) **Notification:**

You will receive a letter from the G/T department notifying you of the committee's decision and guiding you to next steps.

Our goal is for all notification letters to be distributed prior to spring break as referral numbers vary.

What happens in the G/T class?

Driven by student inquiry and initiative, the gifted and talented class focuses on authentic, real-world problem solving through the use of long-term student designed projects. Students will further develop written and verbal communication skills, practice critical thinking, and demonstrate imaginative skills and time management, while learning to collaborate with peer teams and outside experts. The goal of this class is to provide students with the necessary skills to think creatively, readily accept challenges, and take control of their own learning, ultimately preparing them to engage in a post-secondary environment.

What happens in G/T class?

- Elementary pull-out classes are taught by G/T trained teachers and meet for 45 minutes per week. Intermediate students are served by participating in a Google Classroom conducted by a G/T trained teacher.
- At the middle school level, gifted students are served through advanced coursework and a variety of elective classes.
- High school students may choose from advanced coursework such as AP and dual credit courses as well as CTE and a variety of elective classes.

What if my child doesn't qualify for G/T services?

All of our core classroom teachers have been trained to accommodate a student's individual needs. If s/he needs a challenge in a particular area, please contact your child's teacher and let them know.

Should your child want to retest for G/T, simply refer them again next year.

Who can I contact for help or more information?

Tamra Warner

Advanced Academics Coordinator

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- Edison – Whitney Vogl
- Chalmers – Lori Nixon
- Intermediate – Claire Makowski