



Should I Refer My Child for Gifted/Talented Screening?

Considerations:

- Maturity of your child (especially for primary)
- Learning style of your child (self-directed, able to handle open-ended tasks and long range planning)
- Length of testing (especially for younger children, 6-8 hour process spread out over multiple days)

How Do I Refer My Child for Gifted/Talented Screening?

- Meet with your child's teacher to discuss student's progress and learning style.
- Teachers may recommend screening, but that does not guarantee that the student will demonstrate a need for program services during the screening process.
- If you decide to refer your child for screening, complete the Referral Form during the district-wide referral opportunity and submit it to the school office before the deadline posted (Grades K-5).

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do you give so many tests?

The Texas Education Agency requires that districts assess students using a minimum of three criteria. The criteria gathered shall include both quantitative and qualitative data.

Why do we have to refer so early in the school year?

By the end of November, when referral forms are due, students will have been in school for four months; almost half of the school year. Early referral is necessary so that adequate time exists for the Campus Selection Committee to collect needed information to initiate testing which takes place in January and early February. Testing must be scheduled then to avoid a number of end-of-the-year tests that take place in March, April, and May. Tests given in January and February are machine scored outside the district and require six weeks to process. Campus Selection Committees review the new data. Final determination of the student's status is made and notices sent by the end of the school year for placement the following school year. Without early referral and testing, placement decisions could not be made until after school begins in August.



Why does the district not use TAKS/STAAR scores to determine placement?

The TAKS/STAAR test is an inappropriate measure for identification for a gifted program. TAKS/STAAR is a criterion-referenced test designed to determine if a designated, core curriculum is being taught to Texas students. As a result, the test does not look at knowledge and/or skills that are above the students' grade levels. Identifying students for a gifted program requires determining if they are functioning significantly above grade level; something the TAKS/STAAR test does not indicate.

How many students are in the GISD Gifted/Talented program?

Currently, there are approximately 800 students served through the district Gifted/Talented program, which is approximately 8% of the total district population.

Annual Gifted/Talented Identification Timeline

Early Fall/Ongoing	Assessment/testing for transfer students that have been previously identified for gifted/talented services in their previous district. Determination of placement must occur within 30 days of enrollment.
November	Referral window opens. Referrals shall be submitted to the campus for preparation for January testing. Referrals affect students currently enrolled in grades K-11.
January/February	Assessment/testing of referred students in grades K-11
March 1	Kindergarten students identified as Gifted/Talented will begin receiving services
April/May	Deadline for parent notification of assessment results determining placement for gifted/talented services for students grade 1-11.
August	Newly identified students begin receiving gifted/talented services