
GT Staff Development

- As outlined in the Texas State Plan for GT and board policy, all teachers serving identified gifted students will be initially trained in 30 hours of gifted education and will receive 6 hours of advanced training annually thereafter.
- Teachers will be trained in identification procedures, characteristics of gifted students, differentiated instruction, creative and divergent thinking, and program design.
- Administrators and counselors affiliated with the GT/AA program will receive 6 hours in characteristics of the gifted student and the GT/AA Program design.



*For knowledge itself is power.
-Francis Bacon*

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Program of Gifted/Talented and Advanced Academics (GT/AA)



It is the policy of United I.S.D. not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

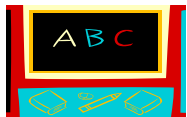
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GT/AA Program Organization

The Department of GT and Advanced Academics (GT/AA) provides services for identified gifted students in grades

K-12.

- All GT students are serviced by certified GT teachers.
- Every elementary campus offers GT instruction in grades K-5.
- Identified gifted students in grades 3-5 have the option to attend a designated school (with the understanding that the parent/guardian is responsible for transportation) or remain at their home campus to receive advanced instruction.
- Middle school (grades 6-8) students are given the option to attend a designated school (with the understanding that the parent/guardian is responsible for transportation) or remain at their home campus to receive advanced instruction. Students are grouped homogeneously in math and language arts and heterogeneously in all other content areas.



GT Identification

Nominations

Students may be nominated by a teacher, counselor, administrator, parent, or peer. The student may also initiate the nomination. Nomination packets may be requested from the campus counselor in September and are returned to the counselor's office as requested. Parents will be notified by mail, kinder in March and first through twelfth grades in May regarding student eligibility.

Identification Criteria

A four-criteria matrix is used in the identification process:

- Aptitude Test (NNAT)
- Teacher/Parent Observation of Gifted Characteristics
- Portfolio
- Grade Averages

All students meeting the district criteria will qualify.

Advanced Placement

Middle school and high school students may enroll in rigorous pre-advanced placement and advanced placement courses in various content areas. These students are strongly encouraged to take the College Board's Advanced Placement exams for college credit. Students test in their junior and/or senior years of high school.

Identification Process

- The district has an established timeline for the identification process.
- Once identified, students will participate from year to year without re-identification unless the student is formally exited from the program.
- Newly enrolled students who qualified for a gifted program in another district need proper GT documentation from their previous district. All documentation will be subject to verification by the GT/AA Director. Students will be accepted into the UISD GT/AA Program upon receipt of the Letter of Eligibility.
- Upon parental request, new out-of-district students who enroll in UISD in August and have not been formally identified in their former district can be screened within the first 30 working days beginning with the first class day in August.
- Upon parental request, new out-of-district students who enroll in the spring semester will begin the GT identification process by the first 30 working days beginning with the first class day in August of the upcoming school year.