

**U.I.S.D. Department of Gifted and Talented and Advanced Academics  
(GT/AA) Questions and Answers (Q & A)**

- 1. Q: What is the procedure when a student comes from another district claiming to be a GT student?**

A: 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**.

- 2. Q: Who does the 30-day GT identification window service?**

A: The 30-day screening window is **ONLY** for new students from out of district and is done upon parental request. Students new to our district who enroll in the spring are eligible to be screened during the first 30 school days of the fall semester.

- 3. Q: Can students new to our district be screened for GT during the summer before they enroll in a respective campus?**

A: No. The district does not offer GT screening services during the summer months.

- 4. Q: Why are the kindergarten students screened so much earlier than the 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students?**

A: The Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted and Talented students dictates that potential kindergarten GT students must be identified and receive services by **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. Therefore, it is a priority for kindergarten teachers to attend the GT 30-hour training. This deadline dictates our Kindergarten GT screening timeline.

- 5. Q: What must be given to parents and teachers when a student is nominated for the program?**

A: Parents must sign and date a **Permission for Screening** letter. Also, depending on who made the nomination, a **Parent** or **Teacher Jotdown** must be filled out as thoroughly as possible. All of these documents must be forwarded to the GT/AA department.

- 6. Q: Can a student who arrives after the GT nomination deadline still be screened for GT in that same year?**

A: No. Once the deadlines pass, no further nominations will be accepted.

**7. Q: What efforts are made to notify parents of the nomination deadline?**

A: The nomination deadline is announced in our local newspaper in English and Spanish annually. We suggest that schools include the nomination deadline in their **morning announcements** a week before the deadline and include it in the monthly **school calendar**.

**8. Q: Does a student who was identified as a GT student but listed as a parent denial have to go through the GT screening process again to receive services?**

A: No. All that is needed is a new **Eligibility Letter** to be signed, dated, and forwarded to our office.

**9. Q: Does a GT teacher who missed a 6-Hour Annual Update have to repeat the 30-hour training?**

A: No. However, they should not be assigned to a GT class or service any GT students. They may again teach GT classes once they have completed the 6-Hour Annual Update.

**10. Q: Who is responsible for administering the Naglieri tests? Is it acceptable to test in groups?**

A: The counselors are responsible for administering the Naglieri Test. Groups should be tested by grade level. Parents should be advised of the testing window so that they may ensure that the children are well rested before the test.

**11. Q: When will the results of the test be available?**

A: The Naglieri Test results will be available no later than January. The kindergarten test results are provided to campuses first, due to the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**12. Q: What is the GT Program Furlough Form?**

A: A furlough form is used when students are unable to maintain satisfactory performance within the structure of the gifted and talented program or when a parent/student requests to be removed from the GT program. A student may be furloughed for a period of time from six weeks to one semester, as deemed appropriate by the selection committee. At the end of the furlough, the student's progress shall be reassessed, and the student may reenter the gifted program, be removed from the program, or be placed on another furlough. **A student shall not be eligible for more than two furloughs throughout his/her academic career.**

**13. Q: What is the difference between a furlough form and a GT Program Exit Form?**

A: When a student is on a furlough, the student may re-enter the GT program without going through the GT screening process again. However, when a student is exited from the GT program, the student must proceed through the entire GT identification process if he/she wishes to reenter.

**14. Q: Who is responsible for informing parents whether or not their child met the criteria to submit a portfolio?**

A: Campus counselors are responsible for informing the parents that their child did not meet the criteria to submit a portfolio. The GT department is responsible for sending letters to the parents of children who complete the entire GT screening process.

**15. Q: What is the procedure when a GT student wishes to enroll at one of our GT designated magnet sites?**

A: All GT Kinder through second-grade students must remain at their neighborhood campus. Only 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade GT students may request a transfer to a designated magnet site. In order to transfer, parents must complete an **Intra-District Transfer Form** that must be approved by the receiving principal and the sending principal. This form must be completed and submitted by **June 1<sup>st</sup> to the Student Services Department**. **Campuses and parents are responsible for the direction of the forms, and parents/guardians are responsible for the transportation of their son/daughter to the designated magnet site.**

**16. Q: Are Pre-AP and AP courses open to students who are not identified as GT students?**

A: Yes. Pre-AP and AP courses are open to all students willing to accept the challenges of academically rigorous courses.

**17. Q: If a teacher who is currently teaching GT students misses the 6-Hour Staff Development offered by the district, who is responsible for ensuring that the teacher acquires the annual 6-Hour GT update?**

A: The teacher's home campus is required to fund the teacher's annual 6-Hour GT update if the teacher does not attend the session(s) for illegitimate reasons. Keep in mind that the district may require other sessions offered by the district to count as the annual 6-Hour update. **Only the GT/Advanced Academics Department can determine which types of training will count as the annual 6-Hour GT update. Furthermore, only the principal can approve such outside travel.**

**18. Q: Are all GT teachers required to receive the 6-Hour GT update annually?**

A: Yes. All teachers must receive their annual 6-Hour GT update regardless of whether or not they are teaching GT students. The annual GT 6-Hour update is designed so that teachers stay current with regards to the delivery of differentiated instruction and with regards to the best research-based practices.