

UISD Department of Gifted Talented Education and Advanced Academics (GT/AA) Questions and Answers (Q&A)

1. Q: What is the procedure when a prospective GT student comes from another district?

A: The student's parents are required to obtain and submit a **Letter of Eligibility** stating that their child has been identified as a GT student by their former school district. After that letter is received, it is to be forwarded to the UISD district office for review. Upon confirmation of the letter, the office will forward a **Letter of Eligibility** to be signed and dated by the parent and then returned to our office.

2. Q: What is the 30-day GT identification window?

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 no later than the first 30 school days of the fall semester of the upcoming school year.

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 provide testing opportunities for students not enrolled in the district.

4. Q: Why are kindergarten students screened so much earlier than the 1st-12th grade students?

A: The state of Texas requires that potential kindergarten GT students must be identified and receive services before **March 1**. 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 type of documentation is required of a student 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 Jot down** must be completed as thoroughly as possible. All of these documents must be forwarded to the GT Department.

6. Q: May 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 as per district guidelines.

7. Q: How are parents informed 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, a new eligibility letter to be signed, dated, and forwarded to our office.

9. Q: Does a GT teacher who missed an annual six hour 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 annual six hour update.

10. Q: Who is responsible for administering the Naglieri tests?

A: The counselors are responsible for administering the Naglieri Test. Groups should be tested by grade level. Parents should be advised of the test date 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 and CogAT 7 scores in February for kindergarten. The kindergarten test results are provided to campuses first, due to the March 1 deadline. All other final screening results will be available in May.

12. Q: What is a G/T Program Furlough Form?

A: A furlough form is used when a parent/student requests to be removed from a G/T class or from receiving G/T strategies. The furlough is for one year and then reviewed the following year for re-entry or for an extended furlough. The furlough form requires the signature of the **campus administrator, parent, student, and G/T committee** (including the AA Director or G/T Coordinator).

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

A: A student may re-enter the GT program without going through the GT screening process through a furlough. However, a student wishing to re-enter the GT program after being exited is required to go through the GT screening process.

14. Q: What kind of lists should schools be compiling in the beginning of the year?

A: Schools should be compiling a **30-day screening list**, nomination list, and a current GT student list. The **nomination list** should include the name, ID number, grade level, and person making the nomination.

15. Q: What type of services do identified gifted and talented students receive?

A: Identified UISD gifted and talented students receive differentiated instruction based on the Kaplan Model of Depth and Complexity from a teacher who has received a minimum of 30 hours of gifted/talented training. In addition, elementary students meet weekly for research-based project work with intellectual peers. Elementary projects are showcased at the campus level and select projects are showcased at the district level.

Identified middle school gifted and talented students take advanced courses (GT and/or Pre-Advanced Placement) courses in various core content areas and work on research-based projects with intellectual peers throughout the school year. Middle school projects are showcased at the campus level.

Gifted and talented high school students receive services from GT trained teachers in Pre-AP and AP Courses and other specialized courses (including but not limited to research design and problems and solutions courses), during which research-based projects are developed. Students showcase projects at the campus level and before panels of professional judges.