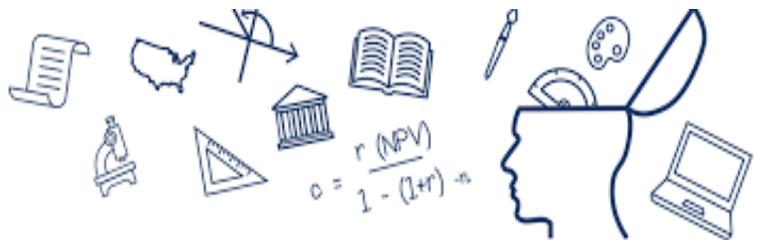


# WASKOM ISD GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

(Revised 2017-2018)



## Definition

The state of Texas defines a gifted/talented student as a child or youth who 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; or
- Excels in a specific academic field.

*Texas Education Code 29.121*

## Preface

Waskom Independent School District is committed to providing learning experiences that meet the academic need of all students. This document presents the official policies, processes, and procedures for organizing, operating, and evaluating the Waskom ISD Gifted and Talented Program.

## Philosophy/Rationale

Learning characteristics of gifted and talented students dictate that learning experiences differentiate from those provided for them in a regular school program. The district recognizes that special provisions must be made for these students in order to stimulate and maximize their achievement.

Waskom ISD recognizes that gifted and talented students are found in all cultural, socioeconomic groups, geographic locales, and environments. The district will serve the needs of those students who are identified as gifted and talented through a differentiated program in which they are provided appropriate services that foster their needs and talents.



## Goals

Waskom ISD will provide the opportunity for gifted and talented students to:

- Increase creative thinking and problem solving skills.
- Develop the application of higher-level cognitive thinking processes.
- Extend skill research/independent study through planning and conducting teacher-directed and self-directed studies utilizing a variety of materials and media.
- Develop a positive self-concept, improve interpersonal skills, and gain a better understanding and appreciation of the uniqueness, worth, and contribution of self and others.

## Program Objectives

Waskom ISD will provide experiences through the gifted and talented program that will:

- Assure all students equal opportunities to be screened, identified, and placed in the gifted and talented program.
- Utilize a differentiated program that will meet the diversified needs of identified students.
- Provide a learning environment that will enable students to develop skills in higher orders of intellectual activity.
- Nurture creativity and flexibility.
- Develop the skills for initiating, planning, and conducting independent research.
- Provide opportunities for students to associate with and share ideas with peers of similar intellectual abilities.
- Provide an atmosphere conducive to appreciation, recognition, and pursuit of excellence.

## Curriculum

The curriculum and instruction are designed to meet the needs of gifted students by modifying the depth, complexity, and pacing of the general school curriculum. It must be differentiated from that in the regular classroom and congruent with the characteristics of gifted children.

## Staff Development

Teachers who provide instruction and services that are part of the program for gifted and talented students have a minimum of thirty hours staff development that includes the nature and needs of gifted and talented students, identification and assessment, and instruction for gifted students.

Teachers who provide instruction and services that are part of the gifted and talented program receive a minimum of six hours of professional development in gifted education annually.

Administrators and counselors who have authority for program decisions have a minimum of six hours of professional development that includes the nature and needs of gifted and talented students.



Waskom Independent School District provides a comprehensive program of learning experiences for gifted and talented students in grades K-12, allowing them the opportunity to reach their learning potential and reinforces their strengths, needs and interests.

The district places identified students in specifically trained teachers' classrooms. These teachers have a minimum of thirty hours of state-mandated training, initially, as well as six hours of update training every year thereafter. The classroom teacher is responsible for providing differentiated instruction with challenging assignments. Gifted and talented students have the opportunity to work together, with other students, as well as independently.

Kindergarten-grade 5 will be serviced daily in heterogeneous classrooms as well as participate in a "pullout" program, one hour per week.

Grades 6-12 are serviced through heterogeneous classes in the core subject areas of honor classes, Pre-AP and AP classes as well as Dual-Credit classes which enables the student to not only earn high school credit but also college credits.

The district shall provide an array of opportunities for those identified as gifted and talented. University Interscholastic League (UIL) is an integral academic component and offers students a wide variety of areas to study, compete, and excel in their areas of strengths and talents. There are leadership opportunities for students through participation in Student Council, National Honor Society, and other academic clubs. The Fine Arts Program, Athletics and Career Technology Education programs offer additional dimensions of learning and enrichment opportunities.

## **Program Description**

## Identification



The identification of gifted and talented students in grades K-12 is accomplished through a three-step process:

1. Referral
2. Screening
3. Selection

Referrals are solicited from: teachers, administrators, counselors, parents, community members and students.

Students may be referred on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. Referral forms can be obtained on the District's website as well as in the office of each campus. Forms are to be turned in to the campus office in which the student attends.

The kindergarten referral deadline is at the end of the first semester, while the deadline for all other grades is the last day of February.

Screening will be conducted on each student referred for the Gifted and Talented Program. Information from the following areas, including both qualitative and quantitative measures, may be collected:

- IQ testing
- Achievement test scores
- Parent Perception Inventory
- Teacher Perception Inventory
- A portfolio of student products

- Referral Rating
- Student Interview (if requested by the committee)

An identification profile is utilized to record assessment data for each referred student. Written permission of the parents is secured for any special testing needed for screening and identification process.

A Selection committee composed of an administrator and at least three teachers who have completed thirty hours of training and are current with the six-hour update as required by the state code will review the data and will determine the most appropriate placement for the student.

Student anonymity shall be maintained during the selection process.

Parents and students shall be notified in writing upon selection of the student for the gifted and talented program.

The district shall obtain written permission of the student and the parents before being placed in the program.

Identified Kindergarten students will begin services no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> of the same school year. Identified students in grades 1-11 will begin services the following school year.

## Appeals

If a parent, student, or staff member is not satisfied with a selection committee's decision concerning a student's gifted and talented status, an appeal must be made to the selection committee by way of written form. A conference will be arranged with the person submitting the appeal.

## Reassessment

The district shall not perform routine reassessments.

## Furlough

Students may be withdrawn from the gifted and talented program on a temporary basis.

Such furloughs may be granted at the request of the student, parent, and/or the selection committee with documentation of the reasons.

The purpose is to provide the student an opportunity to attain performance goals that may or may not be established by the selection committee.

At the end of the furlough, the student's progress will be evaluated and the student may re-enter the program, be removed, or be placed on another furlough.

## Exit Provisions

A student may exit the gifted and talented program by a formal meeting of the selection committee.

Approval for exiting the gifted and talented program may be based on one or more of the following data:

- Teacher recommendation to the selection committee based on observations of performances or products
- Administrator recommendation to the selection committee based on interviews, observations, or developmental data on file
- Parental request for withdrawal
- Student request, with parent permission, for withdrawal
- Evidence of personal or social stress which prevents self-satisfying student performance

A conference shall be held with the student and parent as soon as the selection committee perceives a problem that could necessitate exit from the program. The data and results of the conference should be recorded and placed in the student's file.

Students exiting by self or parent request may re-enter the program only by completing the formal identification process according to district procedures.

## Transfer Students

When a student, identified as gifted by a previous district, transfers to Waskom ISD, the student's records shall be reviewed. If deemed appropriate in comparison to local policy, the student shall be placed in the district's program.

If proper documentation cannot be obtained or is not comparable to the local policy, the student shall be screened and served in accordance to the Waskom ISD Identification Process.



## Parental/Community Involvement



Waskom ISD promotes the active involvement and support of parents, community, and teachers.

Information and notices concerning the gifted and talented program will be available on the district's website as well as all campus offices.

An evaluation of targeted strategies of the gifted and talented program shall be conducted annually. All teachers, parents and students who take part of the gifted and talented program will receive a survey. The purpose of the evaluation will be to:

1. Conduct a needs assessment to identify objectives, products or conditions that should be addressed in future program planning.
2. Examine program operations (processes) to help planners and staff improve an ongoing program.
3. Examine outcomes (products) to determine the extent to which the program is successful.

### **Waskom ISD**

P.O. Box 748

Waskom, Texas 75692

Phone: 903-687-3361

Fax: 903-687-3253

*Para traducción en Español de este documento favor de contactar al Sr. /a la Sra. Gomez al 906 687 3361 Ext.1131 o a la Sra. Agundiz al 903 687 3361 Ext. 1208*