

Professional Learning

Teachers who provide instruction and services that are a part of the district's defined gifted/talented services are required to do the following:

- receive a minimum of thirty (30) hours of professional learning that includes nature and needs of gifted/talented students, identification and assessment of gifted/talented students, and curriculum and instruction for gifted/talented students.
- have completed the thirty (30) hours of professional learning prior to their assignment to the district's gifted/talented services.
- complete the thirty (30) hours of training within one semester if they have not completed the training prior to the assignment.
- receive a minimum of six (6) hours annually of professional development in gifted/talented education that is related to state teacher gifted/talented education standards.

Administrators and Counselors who work with or have supervisory duties for service decisions are required to complete an annual 6 hour update in the nature and needs of gifted and talented students as well as service options. Counselors will also be trained in social emotional learning. Teachers new to the district receive an orientation to the district's gifted/talented identification processes and the district's services for gifted/talented students.

District Staff for Gifted and Talented Services

Farishn Tatum - LEISD Curriculum Director
ronda.jameson@leisd.net
Phone # 903-832-1535 ext. 1204

Tiffani Neal - LEISD GT Teacher/ Facilitator
tiffani.neal@leisd.net
Phone # 903-838-5555 ext. 3197

Melinda Jewell - GT Counselor, ECC Campus
melinda.jewell@leisd.net
Phone # 903-831-5352 ext. 5117

Tanisha Byrdsong- GT Counselor, LEES Campus
tanisha.byrdsong@leisd.net
Phone # 903-831-5390 ext. 4158

Lamisha Boyce- GT Counselor, LEMS Campus
lamisha.boyce@leisd.net
Phone # 903-838-5555 ext. 3107

Liberty Eylau *Independent School District*

Program for Academically Gifted and Talented Students

2021-2022



State Goal and LEISD's Goal for Services for Gifted/Talented Students

Students who participate in services designed for gifted/talented students will demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication as evidenced by the development of innovative products and performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are advanced in relation to students of similar age, experience, or environment. High school graduates who have participated in services for gifted/talented students will produce products and performances of professional quality as part of their program services.

Service Design

A flexible system of viable service options provides a research-based learning continuum that is developed and consistently implemented throughout the district to meet the needs and reinforce the strengths and interests of gifted/talented students.

LE ECC (Kindergarten)

- All Kindergarten students are exposed to and participate in planned experiences in the regular classroom several times per year.
- Students identified at the Kindergarten level will begin receiving services by a GT trained teacher upon identification. Differentiated instruction services take place in the regular classroom.

LE Elementary (grades 1-4)

- GT identified students are served in the **Venture** class by GT trained teachers. This allows them to work with cognitive peers.
- **Venture** is a supplementary program to the gifted and talented program. It is designed to identify students who possess characteristics that indicate they would potentially be able to meet the requirements of a gifted class. These students shall be placed in a gifted/talented class that did not reach its recommended enrollment. For placement purposes, these students shall be identified using the criteria established at the campus and shall be ranked for placement purposes in the event space becomes available.
- GT identified students are given opportunities in the **Venture** class such as the following:
 - Differentiated Instruction
 - Accelerated Pacing
 - Independent Study (projects)
 - Accelerated Reading
 - Advanced Rigor
- GT students are given opportunities to participate in activities such as the following:
 - PTA Reflections Art Contest
 - Art and Music Classes
 - Grade level musical performances
 - Fall Art/Reading Show
 - Spelling Bee
 - Community Service Projects

LEMS (grades 5-8)

- 5th -8th grade GT students are provided with varied challenging activities through a pull-out program for 3 ½ hours each week.
- 6th-8th grade advanced level classes are offered in all core subject areas.
- Also offered are the following:
 - 8th grade Algebra I for HS credit
 - Spanish for HS credit
 - PSAT
 - Extracurricular offerings of Athletics, Band, Choir, Theatre Arts, Video Technology
 - On campus activities/clubs such as UIL, Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Students, Science Club, Coding Club
 - Science Fair
 - GT Fair
 - 8th Grade Career Expos

LEHS (grades 9-12)

GT participating students at the HS level work with the HS campus GT mentor to ensure they are in the appropriate classes for GT credit as set forth in the LEHS GT Expectations. The LEHS GT Expectations form is signed by GT students, parents, the GT mentor, and GT teacher yearly at the high school level. GT participating students must take a minimum of one CP or DC class in their area of strength with a GT trained classroom teacher and complete the class successfully.

- GT participating students choose to complete one of the following each year and submit for credit:
 - Passion Project or
 - Texas Performance Standards Project in their core area of strength class
- GT participating students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular and/or leadership activities.
- Senior year job shadowing opportunities for GT participating students are available.

Furloughs

Furloughs are a temporary “leave of absence” from the Gifted and Talented Program designed to meet the individual needs of an identified GT student. Furloughs shall be tied to extenuating circumstances such as schedule conflicts or personal problems. Furloughs may be at the request of a student, parent, teacher, or administrator. Requests for a furlough will be given to the campus counselor. The placement committee will determine if a need for furlough is evident. A furlough may be granted by the placement committee for a semester or up to a maximum of two years without exiting a student from the program.

Exits

The placement of a gifted and talented student may be reviewed at any time at the request of the student’s parent, classroom teacher, the gifted/talented teacher, or the principal. In order for a student to exit the program, a meeting of the placement committee, along with a parent, shall be held to discuss the student’s overall performance. If a majority of the committee decides that the student is inappropriately placed, the student shall be exited from the program. A student who is exited shall not be allowed to reenter the program until one full academic year has passed. The student must requalify in order to reenter.

Reassessment

A student who is being served in the gifted and talented program shall not be reassessed.