
Flatonia ISD

Giftedness
and the
Identification Process

Objectives

- What is Gifted and Talented?
- Traits of Giftedness
- Bright vs. Gifted
- Myths About Giftedness
- What GT Is Not
- Identification Process & Timeline
- Referral Period, Testing & Selection Process
- Program Services
- Questions

What is Gifted and Talented?

The Texas definition of GT:

“...Gifted and talented students means 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.”

Traits of Giftedness

General Intellectual Ability:

- Abstract thinker
- Complex information processor
- Observant & inquisitive
- Gets excited about new ideas
- Enjoys hypothesizing
- Learns very rapidly
- Uses a large vocabulary
- Self-starter

Creative Thinking:

- Independent thinker
- Exhibits original thinking in oral and written expression
- Generates several solutions to a problem
- Possesses a sense of humor
- Creates and invents
- Challenged by creative tasks
- Improvises often
- Doesn't mind being "different from crowd"
- Exhibits a sense of play

Traits of Giftedness

Intellectual Traits:

- Exceptional reasoning ability
- Intellectual curiosity
- Complex thought processes
- Vivid imagination
- Early moral concern
- Passion for learning
- Powers of concentration
- Analytical thinking
- Divergent thinking/creativity
- Keen sense of justice
- Capacity for reflection

Personality Traits:

- Insightful
- Need to understand
- Need for mental stimulation
- Perfectionism
- Need for precision/logic
- Sensitivity/empathy
- Intensity
- Perseverance
- Acute self-awareness
- Nonconformity
- Questions rules/authority

Traits of Giftedness

Other traits of giftedness include:

- Stubbornness
- Non-participation in class activities
- Uncooperativeness
- Cynicism
- Frustration
- Absentmindedness
- Inappropriate questioning
- Low interest in detail
- Poor group worker
- Rushes work
- Monopolises discussions
- Easily distracted when uninterested
- Self-critical
- Perfectionist
- Tactless

Bright vs. Gifted

A bright child...

- Enjoys school
- Is interested
- Knows the answer
- Understands ideas
- Copies accurately
- Is a technician
- Answers the questions
- Is in the top group
- Is receptive
- Learns with ease
- Enjoys peers

A gifted child...

- Enjoys learning
- Is highly curious
- Asks the questions
- Constructs abstractions
- Creates new designs
- Is an inventor
- Discusses in detail
- Is beyond the top group
- Is intense
- Already knows
- Prefers adults

Myths About Giftedness

- Giftedness is easily defined
- Giftedness is something to be jealous about
- Gifted kids are so smart that they will do fine without special programs
- Giftedness is entirely a matter of hard work
- Giftedness is a validation of wonderful parenting skills
- Giftedness is a reward for kids who behave well in class

Gifted and Talented Is Not...

- A program for students with perfect grades
- A program for students with the best behavior
- Extra work to fill extra time
- Fun for fun's sake
- A test of what the students know
- A self-esteem booster
- Only about academic needs but also includes social and emotional needs and validates talents
- A club to belong to

Identification Process

The identification process includes:

- Referral period
- Testing
- Selections

Timeline

- Referral period: December 1-18
- Testing window: January/February
- Committee selections & notification: Late February
- Services begin: March 1

Referral Period

- Teachers or parents/guardians may refer students during the period.
- Forms must be received by noon on December 18, 2020.
- No late forms will be accepted, per FISD GT policy.
- Written permission to test must be obtained prior to testing.
- Referral forms can be obtained from the campus secretary or by visiting www.flatoniaisd.net > Student Activities > Gifted and Talented > FISD Referral Form December 2020

Testing Process

- Tests are administered on different days over several weeks to avoid fatigue and minimize loss of instruction.
- Younger students will have more testing sessions that are of shorter duration.
- Test measures include a combination of verbal, nonverbal, mathematical, and teacher ratings.

Selection Process

- Committee is made up of at least 3 district educators who have their 30-hour GT certification, which includes Nature and Needs.
- The committee meets to review student data.
- Selections are blind, meaning the committee does not know the student's name.
- A student qualifies for GT services if the majority of the data falls within the High and/or Superior ranges.
- Once the identification process is complete, parents or guardians are notified of the Gifted/Talented Committee's decision via U.S. Mail within ten school days.

Services

- If identified, students will begin receiving services no later than March 1.
- Flatonia ISD does not offer a GT pullout program; therefore, students will receive services in core classes.
- Students will demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication.
- Students will also develop innovative products and/or performances that reflect their individuality and creativity.
- Students will be required to participate in the annual FISD GT Showcase.

Questions???

If you have questions, please call or email us!

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