

FBISD

GT and Vistas Talent Pool Awareness Meeting for Parents

Lead
THE PAC

Welcome

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)

Students with Gifts and Talents:

- Come from all racial, ethnic, and cultural populations, as well as all economic strata.
- Require sufficient access to appropriate learning opportunities to realize their potential.
- Can have learning and processing disorders that require specialized intervention and accommodation.
- Need support and guidance to develop socially and emotionally as well as in their areas of talent.
- Require varied services based on their changing needs.

Texas Education Agency (TEA)

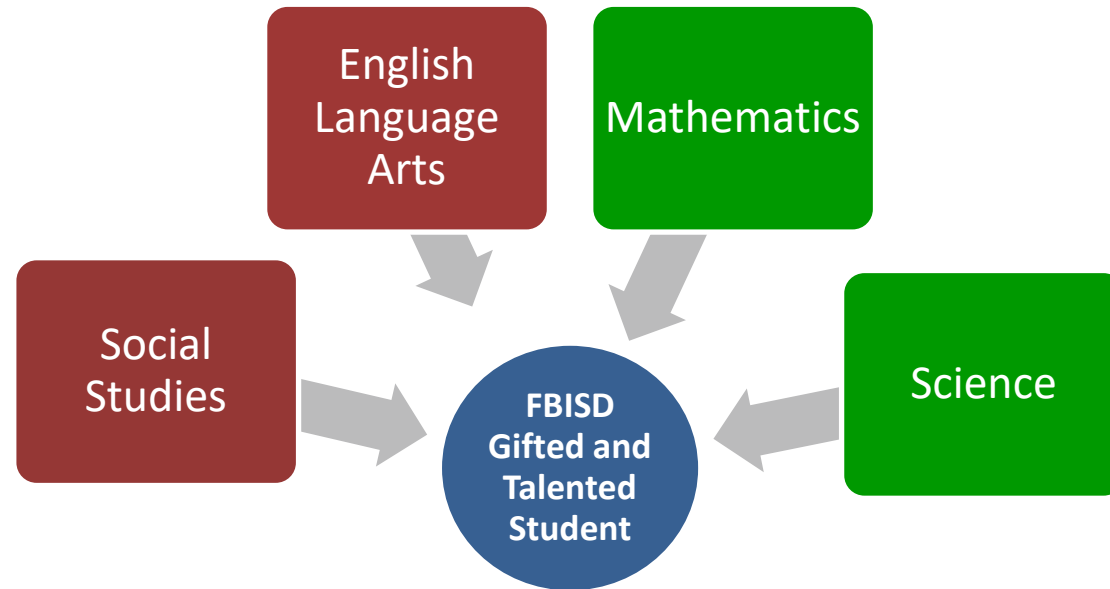
The Texas Education Agency defines a gifted/talented student as a child who performs at or shows the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment and who

- 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](#))

Gifted and Talented Services

Fort Bend ISD Gifted and Talented

Areas Served



Students are currently identified and served in the 4 core areas.

Goal

What is our goal for gifted students?

In alignment with the Texas State Goal for Services for Gifted/Talented Students and Fort Bend ISD's Mission and Vision, the purpose of Fort Bend ISD's Gifted and Talented Services is to provide students identified for gifted services with opportunities to develop their capabilities and demonstrate skills in self-directed learning.

How will we know students have achieved the goal?

The ability to develop innovative products and performances that reflect creativity and individuality in addition to refined research, critical thinking, and communication skills will serve as evidence of mastery of the goal.

What do we do to help students achieve the goal?

In Fort Bend ISD, GT Services take the form of educational interventions- content extensions, curricular alternatives, and advanced level projects in the core foundational curricular areas-Math, Science, ELA, and Social Studies, provided during the school day along with self-directed goals indicated in the GT Learning Plan.



Gifted and Talented Services Elementary

All students identified as Gifted and Talented are provided the following:

- GT services are provided in the core subject areas
(English Language Arts and Social Studies, Math and Science, or all areas)
- GT Learning Plans
- Identified students in grades K-5 are cluster grouped with GT-trained teachers.
- Completion of a Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP)/Innovation Hour Project is required for 1-5

Vistas Talent Pool Services

All students selected for the Vistas Talent Pool are provided the following:

- Vistas Talent Pool services are provided through ELA/Reading
- Vistas students in grades 1– 5 are cluster grouped with GT trained ELA teachers
 - Only one Vistas Talent Pool class per grade level
- Completion of an advanced project is required
 - Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP) or Innovation Hour is highly encouraged

Cluster Grouping



Gifted and Talented/Vistas Talent Pool students are ensured opportunities to work together as a group, work with other students, and work independently during the school day as well as the entire school year.



GT/Vistas Talent Pool students are placed together for instruction in the appropriate content area(s) for which they have been identified in cluster grouping.



Teachers are trained to adapt curriculum and instruction for their gifted/Vistas Talent Pool learners.

Overview of GT Services

The focus of the FBISD GT program is to:

- **Assess** routinely to determine student needs, interests, and abilities.
- **Differentiate** instruction with respect to content, process, product, and learning environment.
- **Offer** cross-curricular opportunities through integrated academic and real-world connections with problem solving experiences.
- **Provide** opportunities for collaborative research and independent study.
- **Encourage** students to design, create, and showcase advanced-level products for a variety of audiences.
- **Utilize** technology as a resource, productivity, and communication tool.



Referral and Identification Process

Vistas Talent Pool

- **All students in Kindergarten are evaluated for GT and the Vistas Talent Pool**
 - CogAT assessment is given in late January/early February
 - Teacher Observations in late February/early March
 - Parents notified in late April/early May



When are the GT referral windows?

- **Fall:** August 8-September 30, 2024 for students currently enrolled in FBISD schools in grades 1st-11th.
- **Spring:** January 6-January 31, 2025 for students who enroll in FBISD schools after the Fall window closes.

Identification Process

Step 1: Online Referral <https://gt.fortbendisd.com/>

September 30th deadline

Step 2: Data Collection

Cognitive Abilities Testing in nonverbal, verbal, and quantitative areas. Teacher and parent inventories in math, science, social studies, and English Language Arts.

Step 3: District Selection Committee Review

Step 4: Parent Notification (March 2024)

Step 5: Services Begin

Kindergarten ONLY March 1

1st-11th grade at beginning of 2025-2026 school year

GT Assessment

- **Quantitative Measures**
 - *CogAT* (Nonverbal Assessment) - measures a student's reasoning abilities through the use of visuals/pictures.
 - *CogAT* (Verbal Assessment) - measures verbal aptitude, word knowledge and concepts, facility with language, verbal reasoning, and analogies.
 - *CogAT* (Quantitative Assessment) - measures mathematical reasoning and problem solving, numerical sequences and patterns, manipulation of mathematical concepts.



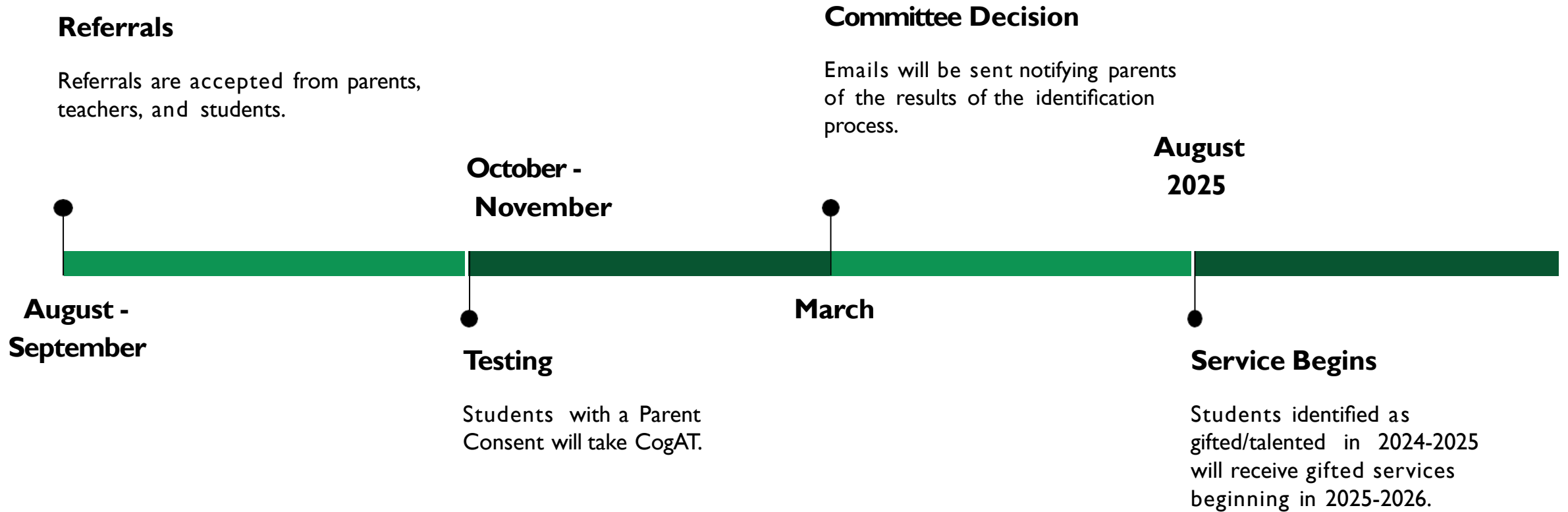
We also look for input from those who know the student.

- **Qualitative Measures**

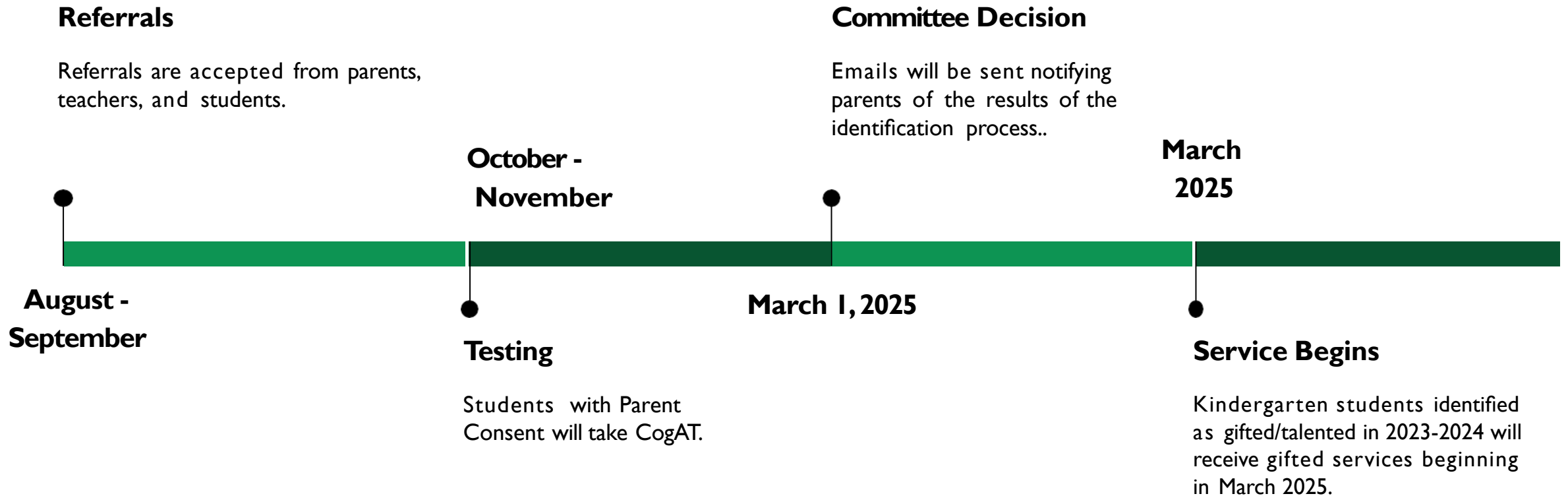
- Parent Inventory
- Teacher Inventory



Identification Timeline-Fall Referrals (**Gr. 1-11**)



Identification Timeline-Fall Referrals (Kindergarten Only)



Don't Forget...

Referral Deadline

September 30th

www.fortbendisd.com/gifted

Frequently Asked Questions

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If my child does not qualify for GT services, or the Vistas Talent Pool can they be referred again?

- Yes, Your child can be referred for GT evaluation on an annual basis until the 11th grade.

My child is already identified as GT in all areas, can they be referred for re-testing?

- Referrals are not accepted for students who have been identified for GT services in all areas.

Frequently Asked Questions

My child is already identified for GT services in one area, can they be referred for re-evaluation?

- Students currently identified for GT services in one area may not be referred to add additional areas. Once a student is identified for GT services, no additional evaluation will be available.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does FBISD service Gifted Learners?

- GT services are provided in the core subject areas: English Language Arts, social studies, math, and science.
- Students are cluster grouped with GT-Trained teachers.
- GT Learning Plans for each GT student are completed to support student growth.
 - GT Learning Plans are not a part of the Vistas Talent Pool program.
- FBISD teachers also provide curricular compacting, lesson differentiation, and participation in projects aligned to the Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP).

Questions??



Please write them in the chat.

FBISD Gifted and Talented Department

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