



## An Overview of the Duke TIP Talent Search

The Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving academically gifted and talented youth. As a world leader in gifted and talented education, Duke TIP works with students, their families, and educators to identify, recognize, challenge, engage, and help students reach their highest potential. TIP's talent searches serve as the entry point to academic benefits and programs for grades 4–12. Since its inception in 1980, over 2.5 million gifted students have taken advantage of the resources offered at Duke TIP.



### Duke TIP Talent Search Model

4th–6th grades

7th grade

Identify, Enroll, & Assess

(grade-level qualifying scores  
followed by above-level testing)



Develop Academic Talent

(appropriate challenging  
academic programs)



Motivate & Encourage

(network of peers and special resources)

### Identifying and Supporting Academically Talented Students

Duke TIP's 4th–6th Grade Talent Search and 7th Grade Talent Search identify gifted students by collaborating with educators in thousands of public and private schools as well as parents in the home schooling community. Talent search participants learn more about their academic strengths, often through above-level testing, and are provided with resources to enhance their exceptional talent through special programs and benefits designed to challenge gifted students. The above-level testing helps teachers and families:

- Differentiate students who have mastered material far beyond their classroom levels from students who have only mastered grade-level material.
- Gain a better understanding of how students compare to their gifted peers.
- Determine what level of educational challenge is most appropriate for them. Testing also provides the foundation for the rest of TIP's talent search programs.

# 4th–6th Grade Talent Search

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## Purpose

To identify, motivate, encourage, and support younger academically talented youth and their families. Participants receive recognition, online resources, and challenging educational opportunities to help learning stay enjoyable through the elementary school years.

## Who Can Participate

Students must be currently enrolled in the fourth, fifth, or sixth grade and have attained qualifying test score at or above the 95th percentile on at least one accepted subtest area of a grade-level standardized achievement test, aptitude test, mental-ability test, or approved state criterion-referenced test; or score 125 or above on an IQ test that is no more than two years old. Enrollment opens on October 1 and runs through March 31.

## Benefits

**Recognition of accomplishments:** includes a certificate of merit, school notification, ribbons for participants, and a press release.

**Above-level testing experience:** participants have the opportunity to register and take an optional eighth grade level EXPLORE® test (administered by ACT) once each school year. This provides insight into a student's academic abilities in English, math, reading, and science. Students scoring in the 99th percentile on the composite section will be invited to a 7th Grade Talent Search recognition ceremony in their home states to receive a medal.

**A variety of online academic and research resources:**

- **Academic lessons** tailored to challenge advanced students, focusing on writing, math, science, and social studies.
- **A monitored virtual book club** where students read great books and connect with other like-minded students nationwide who share a love of reading, thinking, and creating via hands-on, multi-disciplinary activities related to book themes. A new selection is announced six times a year.
- **Academic 411**, an online publication for students that covers both fun and educational topics. Most articles are written by students relating their personal experiences with camps, competitions, and service projects.
- **An annual writing contest** based on a designated topic. First, second, and third place winners in grades four, five, and six—and their enrolling schools—are awarded monetary prizes. The contest opens in late January and has a postmark deadline of March 31.
- **Navigator**, the official newsletter for TIP's 4th–6th Grade Talent Search.
- **The Educational Opportunity Guide**, an online directory containing listings for hundreds of schools, programming for gifted students, and academic competitions across the U.S. and abroad.
- **Personalized educational counseling** with our gifted education experts for participating families.
- **The Digest of Gifted Research**, a searchable online database for educators and parents that offers hundreds of articles by gifted education specialists on educational and developmental challenges and opportunities of the gifted child.

## How to Enroll

Materials are mailed to many schools in September each year, but parents may directly enroll their children online at [www.tip.duke.edu/456enroll](http://www.tip.duke.edu/456enroll) or via paper applications at any time during the enrollment period, October 1–March 31. Fees are paid only once, and need-based financial aid is available. More information is available at [www.tip.duke.edu/456ts](http://www.tip.duke.edu/456ts).

# 7th Grade Talent Search

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## Purpose

To identify older academically talented youth and provide them with opportunities to learn more about their abilities through above-level testing, recognize them for their achievements, offer motivational resources and challenging educational programs through their high school years, and guide them on a path toward achieving their fullest potential.

## Who Can Participate

Students must be currently enrolled in seventh grade (or a current eighth grader who skipped seventh grade) and have attained a qualifying test score at or above the 95th percentile on at least one accepted subtest area of a grade-level standardized achievement test, aptitude test, mental ability test, or approved state criterion-referenced test; or score 125 or above on an IQ test that is no more than two years old. Enrollment opens on August 1 and runs through December 9.

## Benefits

**Above-level testing** using the ACT or SAT college entrance exams. This type of testing experience provides insight into a student's academic abilities, builds test-taking skills, and provides insight into how a student's talents compare to others in their age group.

**Recognition of accomplishments** includes a certificate of merit as well as school notification of participation and a press release.

**A score results summary** is provided to each student showing a comparison of his or her test performance among all talent search participants. This report offers ideas and advice for academic development based on performance.

**Recognition ceremonies** are held for participants who score at higher levels on the ACT or SAT. They are invited to attend ceremonies near or in their home states and receive a medal commemorating their achievement. Those scoring at the very highest levels are invited to attend the Grand Recognition Ceremony held at Duke University each spring.

**Personalized education counseling** with our gifted education experts for participating families.

### Publications to Support Gifted Students and Families

- ***The Talent Search Experience***, a publication that provides parents and students with guidance on above-level test taking strategies, working with schools, preparing for college, academic resources, and educational options.
- **eInsights**, an online newsletter that contains articles of special interest for the academically talented.
- ***My College Guide***, a magazine provided to students in the tenth and eleventh grades that features information about college admissions and profiles select colleges and universities.
- **Digest of Gifted Research**, a searchable online database for educators and parents that offers hundreds of articles by gifted education specialists on the educational and developmental challenges and opportunities of the gifted child.

## How to Enroll

Materials are mailed to many schools in September each year, but parents may directly enroll their children online at [www.tip.duke.edu/7enroll](http://www.tip.duke.edu/7enroll) or via paper application at any time during the regular enrollment period of August 1 to December 9. Late enrollment is available through a two-step process. For details, contact [7talentsearch@tip.duke.edu](mailto:7talentsearch@tip.duke.edu). Fees are paid only once and need-based financial aid is available. The fee includes the cost of one ACT (no writing) or SAT test registration along with other select talent search benefits through high school. More information is available at [www.tip.duke.edu/7gts](http://www.tip.duke.edu/7gts).

# Additional Duke TIP Educational Programs

Most programs require students to be enrolled in a TIP talent search and some require additional qualification levels:

**CRISIS** (grades 5–6) is a weeklong residential program for fifth and sixth graders in the 4th–6th Grade Talent Search held on multiple college campuses. CRISIS challenges students to build leadership and teamwork skills as they collaborate to solve a community crisis. Learn more at [www.tip.duke.edu/solvethecrisis](http://www.tip.duke.edu/solvethecrisis).

**Academic Adventures** (grades 5–6) are intensive one-day programs for 4th–6th Grade Talent Search participants that explore topics not taught in regular classrooms in a learning environment that combines creativity and critical thinking. These programs are held on Duke University and other schools in our region. Learn more at [www.tip.duke.edu/aap](http://www.tip.duke.edu/aap).

**Scholar Weekends** (grades 8–11) are intensive two-day programs for 7th Grade Talent Search participants that allow students to sharpen their skills in courses not typically covered in school, meet other motivated students, and explore pathways to college majors and careers. These programs are held on college and university campuses throughout the Duke TIP region. Learn more at [www.tip.duke.edu/scholar](http://www.tip.duke.edu/scholar)

**Summer Studies Programs** (grades 7–10) are three-week summer residential academic programs held on college and university campuses. These programs offer superb academic opportunities and dynamic residential and social experiences for academically talented students. Additional qualifications are required for participation. Learn more at [www.tip.duke.edu/summer](http://www.tip.duke.edu/summer).

**Field Studies** (grades 9–12) are two-week summer residential academic programs held in challenging and inspiring settings both in the U.S. and abroad. Courses take advantage of unique surroundings to enhance hands-on learning. Learn more at [www.tip.duke.edu/fieldstudies](http://www.tip.duke.edu/fieldstudies).

**eStudies** (grades 7–11) is an interactive, online distance learning program that takes place during the summer. Students connect in real time with expert instructors and classmates from around the world in virtual classrooms. Courses offer a high level of academic instruction in topics not covered in most classrooms. Additional qualifications are required for participation. Learn more at [www.tip.duke.edu/estudies](http://www.tip.duke.edu/estudies).

**Independent Learning** (grades 4–12) provides challenging options for independent study anytime, anywhere. Courses come in a variety of formats (e.g., online, CD-ROM, or workbooks), allowing students to pursue subjects at their own pace and learning level. Learn more at [www.tip.duke.edu/independentlearning](http://www.tip.duke.edu/independentlearning).

## **Rosetta Stone® through Duke TIP**

(grades 4–12) is an exclusive opportunity for Duke TIP talent search participants to learn and practice languages by purchasing a competitively-priced, one-year subscription to Rosetta Stone's uniquely interactive products at a competitive price. Courses are offered in 25 languages. Learn more at [www.tip.duke.edu/rosetta](http://www.tip.duke.edu/rosetta).

Learn more about Duke TIP  
and all of our programs at  
[www.tip.duke.edu](http://www.tip.duke.edu) or  
by calling (919) 668-9100.

