

Philosophy

The Board believes every student shall be inspired and equipped to reach his or her full potential in a nurturing and innovative learning environment that meets his or her unique educational, social, and emotional needs.

Gifted and Talented Program

The District shall institute an equitable gifted and talented program, which will include an identification process to ensure student representation across all populations. The gifted and talented program shall provide all identified gifted and talented students the opportunity to engage in learning experiences that empower them to take responsibility for their own learning and provide appropriate levels of challenge and growth.

The Superintendent shall establish administrative procedures for the gifted and talented program, admissions, furlough, and exit procedures. Campus staff shall implement the administrative procedures with consistency and fidelity. District staff shall monitor and support effective implementation of the administrative procedures.

The District shall provide opportunities for parents to learn about giftedness and best practices for meeting the needs of gifted students. The District shall also ensure that information about the District's gifted and talented program is available to parents and community members and that they have an opportunity to develop an understanding of and support for the program.

All students who reside in the District and attend private school/home school have access to the program admission, assessment, and appeals process to determine the need to receive gifted and talented services upon enrollment in the District. [See FNG]

Program Admission

Campus staff shall address equity and access for all students through the use of multiple data points when making referral decisions.

Nomination

Administrators, parents, teachers, and school counselors may nominate any District-enrolled student who is not receiving gifted and talented services in kindergarten–grade 12 for the gifted and talented program. Students may also nominate themselves.

The Superintendent shall establish processes and guidelines designed to ensure that students from all populations in the District have access to assessment and, if identified, to services provided for the gifted and talented program.

Parental Consent

Written parental consent shall be obtained prior to assessment and placement in the program. The District gifted and talented identifi-

cation profile created during the screening and identification process shall be an educational record, subject to the protections set out in policies at FL(LOCAL).

Criteria for Identification

The criteria set forth in administrative procedures shall be aligned to the state definition of gifted and talented and shall ensure the equitable assessment of students of all populations.

Selection

A campus selection committee shall be established at each campus as stated in the Texas state plan and must be comprised of a campus administrator and/or school counselor and at least three teachers who have met the training requirements for gifted and talented programs.

The campus selection committee shall evaluate each nominated student according to the established criteria and shall select students whose scores indicate a predominance of high ability for placement in the gifted and talented program.

The District Advanced and Enriched Learning Opportunities department shall monitor the identified District gifted and talented student population to ensure progress toward a gifted and talented program enrollment that reflects the demographics of the District as a whole.

New Enrollment

When a student identified as gifted and talented by the previous public school district enrolls in the District, the student's records shall be reviewed by the campus selection committee to determine whether placement in the District's gifted and talented program is appropriate.

When a current District gifted and talented student transfers or enrolls at a new campus within the District, services shall begin immediately upon enrollment.

Assessment

Assessment of students for the gifted and talented program shall include quantitative and qualitative data collected from multiple sources for each area of giftedness (English language arts, math, science, social studies, leadership, and creativity) to ensure the identification of gifted and talented students across all District demographics.

The District shall provide assessment opportunities to complete the screening and identification process for nominated/referred students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment in the areas defined in Education Code 29.121 at least once per school year.

Assessment calendar dates shall be published in administrative procedures and made available to the community.

Reassessment

The District shall not perform routine assessments for students currently receiving gifted and talented services. If approval to reassess in any unidentified area(s) is granted, all supplies, materials, fees, and transportation for reassessment shall be the responsibility of the student and his or her parent. The Superintendent or designee may waive limitations on an individual basis for extenuating circumstances.

Previously assessed students who do not meet the gifted and talented criteria may be nominated and assessed annually to determine whether they qualify for gifted and talented services.

Notification

The District shall provide written notification of the placement decision to parents, and, if applicable, the right to appeal the decision.

Participation in any program or services provided for gifted and talented students shall be voluntary, and the District shall obtain written permission from the parents prior to beginning services.

Learning Opportunities

The District shall provide an array of research-based activities and learning opportunities, including multiple and varied instructional arrangements along with appropriately aligned resources for gifted and talented students in kindergarten–grade 12 that meet the needs of the whole child through social, emotional, and academic support. [See EHBB(LEGAL)] The available placements, activities, and learning opportunities shall be consistent in substance and practice for students across the District.

The District shall incorporate a learning plan for identified gifted and talented students. A student's learning plan can be adjusted to include additional gifted and talented services or to have services removed as appropriate for the student.

Furlough

A furlough may be initiated by the District, the parent, or the student in cases where a student is unable to maintain satisfactory performance or whose educational needs are not being met within the structure of the gifted and talented program.

A furlough shall be granted by the campus selection committee for specified reasons and for a specified period of time after conferencing with the student and/or parent. At the end of the furlough, the student may re-enter the gifted and talented program, be placed on another furlough, or be exited from the program.

The minimum length of time for the furlough is one semester. The maximum is one school year.

The District may reassess students identified as gifted and talented in the District's gifted and talented program who are on furlough

using appropriate assessment instruments to determine appropriate program placement.

Exit Provisions

Students who have participated in the District's gifted and talented program shall continue in the program unless they are unable to perform within the structure of the gifted and talented program. A student may be removed from the program at any time the campus selection committee or its representatives have had a conference with the student and/or the parent and have documented the use of established exit procedures.

Students who withdraw from the District shall be administratively exited from the gifted and talented program.

Re-entry

In order to re-enter the program, a student who has been administratively exited must be reassessed and qualify for the program by meeting the most current gifted and talented qualification standards.

Appeals

A parent/guardian or a student may appeal any decision in writing on a form provided by the District regarding selection for or removal from the gifted and talented program. For the appeal process, see FNG(LOCAL).