

Gifted and Talented Program

Coppell ISD
2009

What is a GT Student?

- Perform at a remarkably high level of accomplishment or
- Show potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment
- Compared to students of similar age, experience, or environment.

What is a GT Student?

- In CISD we identify and serve remarkably high levels of accomplishment in the following areas:
 - General intellectual ability
 - Specific subject aptitude in mathematics
 - Specific subject aptitude in language arts

Two Levels of the GT Program

- Elementary Level (Grades k-5)
- Secondary Level (Grades 6-12)
 - GT Mathematics and Science
 - GT Language Arts and Social Studies
- When a student qualifies to participate in the elementary GT program, he/she is not automatically qualified to participate in the secondary GT program (middle school and high school).

Elementary GT to Secondary GT

- An elementary GT student may qualify for an automatic transition in the middle school GT program if he/she meets the following criteria:
 - Participate in the elementary GT program in 5th grade without a furlough or exit; and
 - Meet the standards established for automatic transition.

Automatic Transition (5 to 6)

- Demonstrate remarkably high level of performance.
- Language Arts/Social Studies
 - Score at least a 6 on the Texas Performance Standards Project
 - Score at least a 7 on the compare and contrast literary analysis project over the required reading.
- Mathematics/Science
 - Score at least a 6 on the Texas Performance Standards Project
 - Score at least a 70% correct on the GT Math Assessment

GT Committees

- All GT placement decisions are made by a committee of educators at the campus.
 - 5 members (administrator and counselor)
 - All trained in gifted education
- If parents are not satisfied with the decision of the committee, they may appeal.

Universal GT Screening

- All kindergarten students are tested and screened for possible participation in the GT program. (December-February)
- All 3rd grade students are tested and screened for possible participation in the GT program. (September-October)

Applying to Participate

- Students/parents may apply to participate each academic year, but no more than once per academic year.
- Students in kindergarten and 3rd grade will only be screened once during that year, so there is no application process.
- 4th and 5th Deadline is Friday, September 4th.
- 1st and 2nd Deadline is September 30th.

GT Application at Secondary Level

- Rising 6th graders (current 5th). Deadline March 31
- Rising 7th and 8th graders (current 6-7). Deadline January 29
- Secondary GT screening is in the spring and placement begins during the subsequent academic year.

GT Referrals

- There are occasions when the educational staff at a school may determine that a student is performing at a remarkably high level and refer the student for GT consideration.
- With parental permission, the student would be tested and screened for participation in the GT program.
- No set schedule. Rather, it is done as needed.

GT Transfer Students

- Students who have actively participated in a school (other than Coppell ISD) that has an established policy for identification and service of gifted students, may apply for admission to the GT program as a transfer GT student.
- When we verify the student was identified and participated in the GT program, we will admit him/her provisionally.

Testing for the GT Program

- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)
 - Tests general intellectual ability
 - Timed test
 - Three sections
 - Quantitative
 - Verbal
 - Non-Verbal
- CogAT is not a test that students can prepare for. There is no study guide.

Testing for the GT Program

- Scantron Performance Series Testing (2-8)
 - Achievement testing in mathematics and reading
 - Adaptive testing
 - Online
- Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)
 - Achievement testing in mathematics and reading
 - Paper and pencil format

Alternate Tests

- Students in special populations may also be given a follow-up alternate test to accommodate an exceptionality.
 - English Language Learners
 - Dyslexic
 - Learning Disabled (with an established IEP)
- Twice exceptional learners are identified each year for our programs.

What Scores are Required?

- National Percentile Ranking
- Kindergarten – 2nd: Roughly 97th Percentile.
- 3rd – 12th: Roughly 95th percentile.

- Elementary CogAT:
 - Standard Age Score (SAS) Composite
- Secondary CogAT:
 - Subscore (SAS) for Quantitative and Verbal

Scales for Identifying Gifted Students

- SIGS are used for teacher feedback on typical characteristics of gifted performance.
- SIGS is a nationally normed instrument that asks a teacher to rate a specific student in relation to typical students of the same age and/or grade level.

Authentic Assessment

- One portion of GT screening may include collection of authentic products in the form of a portfolio.
- Some of the works in the portfolio will be standard tasks performed and collected at school.
- Parents may submit additional works as evidence of exceptional performance.

GT Standards for Work

1. Represents an unusual presentation of an idea
2. Advanced beyond age or grade level
3. Complex or intricate presentation of an idea
4. In-depth understanding of a problem or idea
5. Resourceful and/or clever use of materials or ideas
6. Demonstration of research to support an idea
7. Work that is organized to communicate effectively
8. Evidence of high interest and perseverance on a task

Furlough from the GT Program

- A furlough is a temporary exit from the GT program based on evidence of an extenuating circumstance.
- Furloughs have a beginning and an end with the expectation that the student will resume GT service at the end of the furlough.
- Approved by the GTC

Exit from the GT Program

- Based on poor academic performance
- Poor academic performance contradicts the definition of a GT student as one who has a remarkably high level of performance.
- Enrollment in an alternative educational placement.

Goal of the GT Program

- Students who participate in the gifted and talented program will demonstrate advanced skills in the following areas:
 - Self-directed Learning
 - Critical and Creative Thinking
 - Research Skills on one or more disciplines
 - Communication.
- Students will demonstrate their advanced skills through the development of innovative products and performances which reflect creativity, individuality, and professional-level quality.