

# Gifted & Talented

## Frequently Asked Questions



- **How do I know if my child is gifted or has the potential to be gifted?**
  - According to the state of Texas, a gifted child is “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 of leadership; or excels in a specific academic field.”
  
- **What are the most common characteristics of a gifted child?**
  - No two gifted students are alike. However, there are various common characteristics.
  - Compared to other children their age, environment, or experience, gifted children are often:
    - highly curious, constantly asking questions.
    - imaginative - creates songs, stories, poems, jokes, new ways for using common objects.
    - passionate about certain things and, therefore, initiate projects in those areas.
    - extremely focused on tasks they want to complete but not as much on other tasks.
    - frustrated with more than 1-2 repetitions - need less repetition for mastery.
    - extremely observant.
    - highly self-critical and critical of others who don't meet expectations.
    - inventive - new products new designs.
    - skilled at manipulating information to problem solve and/or to rationalize behavior.
    - expressive - have strong feelings and/or opinions - might seem argumentative.
    - extremely knowledgeable about a particular topic or concept for someone that age.
    - bored and, therefore, requires complex, highly challenging tasks.
  - For a more extensive list of characteristics, look at the parent questionnaire within the GT application for testing. It is also available on the district website (*departments/advanced academics/gifted and talented*). In addition, there is a list of characteristics under *Parent Resources* on the webpage.
  
- **Does Lufkin ISD offer GT services in all areas of giftedness?**
  - Per TEA guidelines, GT services must provide options in the four curricular areas: math, science, English, social studies. Lufkin ISD's services focus on these specific academic fields.
  - Many of the GT classes allow students to explore their creativity, leadership, and other interests and passions.
  
- **Is there a fee associated with testing or participation in the gifted and talented program at Lufkin ISD?**
  - There is no fee for GT testing.
  - There is no tuition for any student, including those who do not live in the district.
  
- **If my child qualifies for GT services, does he or she have to be referred for testing each year?**
  - No; children need to be reassessed only if they leave the program and do not receive GT services after they leave the district.

- **If my child does not qualify for GT services, may he or she be referred for testing again?**
  - Yes; children may be referred and screened once per year. Parents will have to complete another application when the referral period opens each January.
  
- **If my child is in the GT program at Dunbar or Brandon, but that campus is not our “home” campus, can my child still receive transportation?**
  - If you live within the boundaries of Lufkin ISD, your child can be bussed to the GT campus from his or her “home” campus. The transportation department can help you with this. 936-630-7461
  - Also, parents may drive their students to the GT campus if they prefer.
  
- **Do all LISD primary and elementary campuses provide GT services?**
  - Due to the unique and comprehensive design of the program, to receive services, GT students attend Dunbar Primary (K-2) and Brandon Elementary (3-5).
  
- **If my child was identified as needing GT services in Kindergarten, but we chose the Dual Language program, does he or she have to be retested to receive GT services at a later date, including LMS and LHS?**
  - Maybe; a student must accept services within one year from the date identification in order to be identified as GT and receive services.
  
- **What GT opportunities may my child have after 5th grade?**
  - Various options are available for GT students in the 4 core academic areas, specifically in the academic field in which they demonstrate giftedness or the potential for giftedness.
    - Students may receive gifted services in any advanced (formerly called PreAP), AP, or Dual Credit class in the core areas.
    - If they meet certain requirements, students may qualify for STEM Prep (LMS) and the SFA STEM Academy (LHS), options in math and science.
    - At LMS, GT students with strengths in language arts may enroll in the GT/Advanced Language Arts class from 6th-8th grades.
    - At LHS, GT students with strengths in language arts and/or social studies may be considered for the LHS GT Integrated Studies program from 9th-10th grades (note: students must meet certain requirements to enroll).

If you have other questions, please call the Advanced Academics department.  
936-630-4254