

Lufkin ISD



**A Brief Manual  
for  
Parents of Gifted and Talented  
Services**

**Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Board of Trustees Approved: August, 2020**

## Texas State Definition of Gifted and Talented Students

A gifted and talented student means 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.

## State Goal for Services for Gifted/Talented Students

Students who participate in services designed for gifted and talented students will demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication as evidenced by the development of innovative products and performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are advanced in relation to students of similar age, experience, or environment. High school graduates who have participated in services for gifted/talented students will have produced products and performances of professional quality as part of their program services.

Lufkin ISD is committed to meeting the needs of its gifted and talented students pursuant to the state definition and goal for services.

## G/T Selection, Appeals, Exit, Transfer, and Furlough

### *Lufkin ISD Identification Timeline*

Referral procedures published via media, website, parent meetings	Each January
Referrals accepted	January – February (dates vary each year; please see district website for specific dates) Note: Parents can submit a referral at any time; however, any submission after the February deadline will not be considered until the following year's official referral period.
Assessments conducted after written parental permission – assessments take place at student's home campus within Lufkin ISD or at the District Education Center; parents will be contacted after the testing window opens and within 2 weeks of applying.	January – March (dates vary each year; please see district website for specific dates)
Gifted/Talented Placement Committee meets	April
Written parental permission for services obtained for identified students	April (deadline to accept or decline services vary each year; letters will have the deadline date)
Appeals – Appeals may be submitted within 10 business days of receiving letter for non-identified students. The placement committee will respond to the appeal within 20 business days of receipt.	April
Registration	Begins in June - August
Services begin for identified students	August of the next school year

Note: All kinder, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take a district screener to identify students in need of gifted and talented services.

## **Criteria Used for Placement in G/T and Selection Procedures**

Per the Texas plan for the Gifted and Talented, qualitative and quantitative data (observational and numerical) is collected through three (3) or more measures to determine whether a student requires gifted and talented services. This data collected will identify students who perform, or show the potential for performing, at remarkably high levels of accomplishment compared to others their age, peers, environment, and/or experience.

The qualitative measures may include a teacher observation inventory, a parent inventory, student inventory, and/or student products.

Quantitative measures may include verbal and nonverbal intelligence tests as well as achievement tests in the four core subjects (math, English, science, social studies) as well as other assessments that may indicate other areas of giftedness.

Test scores will not be accepted from private sources except for appeals consideration. The final selection for placement in the program is made by a committee composed of some or all of the following: teachers of the gifted and talented, the Director of Advanced Academics, Advanced Academics Coordinator, gifted and talented facilitators, and other professionals, including counselors and campus administration, all of whom have had training identifying and assessing gifted/talented students.

## **Notification**

Once the identification process is complete, parents/guardians will be notified of the result by mail. In addition, parents/guardians may request a conference to examine their child's assessments.

## **Appeals Procedure**

Parents will have ten (10) business days from the date results are received to request an appeal by:

1. completing the Appeal Form available on the district's website. The form can also be sent to parents by calling the Director of Advanced Academics.
2. presenting additional information to the district placement committee that could include anecdotal records, other testing, and original creative writing and artwork that demonstrates the child's potential to perform well above others their age, grade, and/or experience.

Once the district placement committee convenes to review the case, parents will be notified in writing of the results by the Director of Advanced Academics within twenty (20) business days of receiving the appeal.

If the parent continues to disagree with the decision, an appeal may be made by following district appeal guidelines as outlined in the student handbook.

Identification scores will be accepted for up to one year. After that period, any referred student who qualified but did not enter the gifted and talented program but wishes to at a later date must qualify again.

## **Exiting Students from Program Services**

Students receiving gifted and talented services in the district shall continue in the program unless they are unable to perform within the structure of the gifted and talented program. Students should be considered for exiting from the gifted and talented program under the following conditions:

1. The student has demonstrated that he or she does not benefit from the services provided for gifted and talented students; or
2. The student's parent/guardian requests that the student be removed from the program.

### **Procedures**

1. A campus committee made up of the campus principal, campus instructional coach, teacher(s) of the student, director of advanced academics, and other applicable staff members will serve as a review board to consider exiting gifted and talented students. The committee will examine multiple criteria to determine whether or not the student being considered benefits from gifted and talented services. These criteria may include but are not limited to:
  - a. Student performance in response to services.
  - b. Current achievement testing.
  - c. State assessment performance.
  - d. Grades for at least the past 3 grading periods.
  - e. Response to intervention plan.
  - f. Excessive discipline concerns.
2. Exiting of a student will be finalized after an intervention plan has been created and implemented and after consultation with parents/guardians and student regarding the student's educational needs.
3. A decision shall be made to exit or continue with services no more than 8 weeks after the initial referral to exit.
4. Exit procedures may be initiated at any time during the school year prior to the last 9 weeks of school. Once a student is exited from the program, he or she will be eligible for reconsideration no earlier than the beginning of the next school year. Re-entry must be through the LISD Identification Process.

## **Furloughs**

A furlough (the opportunity for students to have a leave of absence from gifted and talented program services) may be implemented for specified reasons for a certain period of time without being exited. These reasons may include, but are not limited to:

- a. the inability of the student to maintain satisfactory performance within the structure of the gifted/talented program
- b. education needs not being met within the structure of the gifted and talented program
- c. Specific personal or life circumstances

## **Family and Community Involvement**

Lufkin ISD will annually provide to parents/guardians policies related to gifted and talented student identification. These policies may be made available through a variety of methods which may include but are not limited to the district gifted and talented webpage, the student handbook, local media, etc. as deemed appropriate by the district.

Lufkin ISD will annually seek input from family and community representatives on gifted and talented identification and assessment procedures.

Lufkin ISD will ensure information is shared or meetings held annually to request parent/guardian and community recommendations regarding students who may need gifted and talented services.

Lufkin ISD will provide an orientation and periodic updates for parents of students who are identified as gifted and talented and provided gifted and talented services.

**A more comprehensive board-approved manual on gifted and talented services offered in Lufkin ISD is available upon request. Make all requests to the Office of Advanced Academics.**