



Anthony ISD

Gifted & Talented Handbook

2017-2018

Table of Contents

Nomination and Identification Timeline.....3

Program Definitions.....4

Program Goals.....5

Student Assessments.....6

AISD GT Nomination and Identification Timeline 2017-2018

Window/Deadline	Group	Event
First 2 weeks of school	Previously ID GT/transfer students	Permission to participate in screening/identification process letter
GT Nomination Window October 2-October 11	1 st -11 th grade	Nomination forms from teachers/school staff/parent/community/peer/self-due Parent and teacher surveys distributed
Parents Forms Due October 2-October 13	1 st -11 th grade	Parents of GT-nominated students complete permission forms for identification process Parent and teacher surveys due
Testing October 17-20	1 st -11 th grade	GT testing begins
Parent Notification Letters October 24-26	1 st -11 th grade	Parent notification for GT decision to be sent home and returned
GT Committee Meeting October 24	1 st -11 th grade	Campus GT committee campus review and decision making
Kindergarten Nomination Window/Parent Permission February 26-February 28	Kindergarten	Kindergarten Teacher Nomination Forms Submitted
Kindergarten Testing March 5-March 6	Kindergarten	Testing begins
Kindergarten Parent Notification Letters Mar 19-21	Kindergarten	Parent notification for GT decision to be sent home and returned
GT Committee Meeting Mar 20	Kindergarten	Campus GT committee campus review and decision making

AISD Gifted And Talented Program Mission Statement

The mission of Anthony ISD's Gifted and Talented Program is to identify potentially high academic students and provide them with opportunities that promote:

- Academic rigor, depth, and breadth
- Acceleration
- College preparation
- Independent Research
- Social and emotional development to nurture full development of academic potential

AISD Gifted And Talented Program Philosophy Statement

Anthony Independent School District is committed to serving the exceptional needs of knowledgeably gifted students from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds through a selection of qualitatively different learning opportunities. Students function in a total learning environment, assume responsibility for choices and decisions, and work effectively with others to solve problems.

Definition of Giftedness (TEC.29.121)

"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 and who:

- (1) Exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area;
- (2) Possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or
- (3) Excels in a specific academic field.

AISD Gifted And Talented Program Goals

Anthony ISD's Gifted and Talented Program recognizes goals that are specific, yet flexible, are an essential part of an effective program designed to meet the needs of gifted and talented learners. The district commits to:

- o Identify all gifted and talented students across all ethnic and economic populations, including students from any special populations.
- o Provide differentiated instruction to all GT learners K-12 including differing pace (acceleration) and level (depth and complexity), beyond regular curriculum requirements and offerings
- o Provide services to meet the social and emotional needs of GT students within peer grouping; Identify professional learning needs and plan professional development for teachers, counselors and administrators of GT students accordingly
- o Inform the involvement of parents and community members in the program for gifted students;
- o Evaluate program effectiveness on a regular basis, providing a continuum of information targeting evaluation of key features of the program and measuring its effectiveness in relation to student growth and achievement.

Student Assessment

I. Nominations:

A. Nomination Window

Students may be nominated for the gifted and talented program during one screening window by teachers, administrators, counselors, parents, or other interested adults. In addition, secondary students may nominate themselves or be nominated by another secondary student. The AISD Gifted and Talented Program nomination window, grades K-11, occurs during two weeks in the fall semester. The screening and testing occurs October 1st-11th and March for kindergarten.

B. Nomination Forms

Nomination forms will be available in the offices at each campus. Forms should be completed and returned to the office, specifically

directed to the GT Campus Advocate. GT Campus Advocates must receive nominations by the last day of the window.

C. Nomination Parameters

Students not identified as eligible for GT services during the annual screening/identification period may be nominated during another nomination window. Screening of students may only occur once during the same school year

II. Parent Consent:

All nominations must secure written parent/guardian permission for further assessment. All student information collected during the screening and identification process shall be part of the student's educational record.

III. Identification Criteria and Service Start Dates:

Written parental consent will be obtained before any special testing or individual assessment is conducted, and will be an educational record.

Multiple criteria are used for each student nominated for the Gifted and Talented Program. These criteria include qualitative and quantitative measures and include cognitive ability tests, achievement tests, academic subtests, tests in creativity and teacher nomination scales. Testing provisions assure the fair assessment of students with special needs.

IV. Selection

A. GT Determination Committee

The principal, or his/her administrator designee, on each campus will be responsible for identifying a GT Campus Advocate for the screening and identification process. The campus will create a GT Determination Committee comprised of at least three (3) professional educators who have received the at least 6 hours of G/T training. These members must be knowledgeable about the nature and needs of gifted/talented students

and service options for gifted/talented students. The GT Determination Committee members are:

- a classroom teacher with at least 30 hours of G/T training.
- the GT Campus Advocate
- an administrator (preferably an assistant principal so principal may hear appeals).

B. GT Determination Committee Duties

The duties of the GT Determination Committee include but are not limited to the following:

- Identification of students to be served by the GT Program based on the data gathered in the screening process;
- Determination of furlough or exit of students from the GT program;

VI. Notification

Parents of students nominated for the AISD GT Program will be notified of the screening determination. Parents will be informed in an official Screening and Identification Results letter. Before a student can participate in the program, parents must return a signed Screening and Identification Results letter. When returned, this permission form must be filed in the student's permanent GT red folder. Copies of these notifications will be filed in the student's permanent GT red folder.

VII. Appeal of Committee Decision

A parent, teacher, or student who is not satisfied with the decision of the GT Determination Committee to identify a student as eligible for services, may appeal the decision. Appeals for district nomination cycle must be filed by November 9th using the Identification Appeals Process form. Appeals may be heard on case by case bases within the ten day window. An appeal shall be made in writing to the campus who will determine the next step.

VIII. Reassessments

Once identified, AISD students will not be rescreened in order to remain in the program. Students identified on any AISD campus are eligible for services on any other AISD campus.

IX. Furloughs

Whenever circumstances warrant, a student may be furloughed from GT services without having to exit the program. A furlough's duration is one or two semesters and is documented using the Furlough Documentation form. The campus GT Determination Committee will consider multiple criteria such as student interest, parent interest and extenuating circumstances that would be in the student's best interest to temporarily do without the services of the GT Program. At the end of the furlough period, the student's needs progress shall be reassessed and a determination will be made as to the educational setting that will be most appropriate for the student at that particular time. The team may decide that the student may re-enter the program, be exited from the program, or be placed on another furlough.

X. Exiting Procedures

Students may be exited from the program when discontinuing the child's participation is in the best interest of the student. At the secondary level, exiting the GT Program may precede, coincide with, or exclude exiting PreAP, AP and Dual credit classes. To exit the GT program, one or more of the following conditions must be met:

- The student may, with parental permission, request to be removed from the program. In such cases, a conference between the parent, the GT Determination Committee, the cluster GT teacher and the student, if appropriate, must be held before exiting occurs. Exit documentation signed by the parent(s) and campus administrator serving on the GT Determination Committee will be placed in the student's permanent folder.
- The parent(s) may request that the student be removed from the program. In such cases the procedure outlined above will be followed.

XII. Transfer Students

- A. Transferring out of district: In the event an identified student from AISD transfers out of district, AISD will send documentation of screening/identification, with the other records of the student, to the receiving district.
- B. Transferring from Another District:
 - a. Students transferring into AISD from another district will receive services upon submission of eligibility from previous district. Transfer students unable to provide GT documentation from their previous

school district will be placed into regular classes or cluster classes and may be nominated for screening during the next screening window.

XIII. GT Services and Alternative Education

If an identified GT student is placed in an alternative education setting, s/he should still receive services unless s/he has been furloughed or exited from the program. TEA recommends that furloughs should be a committee decision, should follow normal procedures for furlough or exit, and should not be the common practice for students sent to alternative settings. GT student needs should be served in the alternative setting by GT trained teachers.

XIV. Reporting Student Assessment and Identification

The GT Campus Advocate will submit identification results using the GT Student Records Add/Delete/Edit form. This form should be submitted to the campus registrar and assigned GT Specialist or district GT Coordinator at these times:

- September: to include transfer students identified after records/data review
- March: 1st week of month to include all newly-identified kindergarten students
- October 31st: conclusion of annual screening/identification process
- Ongoing: to include transfer students identified after records/data review Campus registrars will publish a list of all GT identified students twice per year.

Full lists should be given to the following:

- Teachers
- Administrator,
- District GT Coordinator

The campus will create lists of GT students by teacher for distribution to the appropriate GT teacher at the following times:

- Third week of school
- First week of December