

Gifted and Talented Parent Informational Session

2019-2020

Presenters:

*Aurora DeLuna, Terri Garcia, Cecily Hale,
Renee Ricca, Melanie White*



AGENDA

- What Is Gifted and Talented (G/T)?
- What G/T Services Are Offered in HISD?
- How to Apply
- How Are Students Identified for G/T Services?
- Assessments Information
- Questions

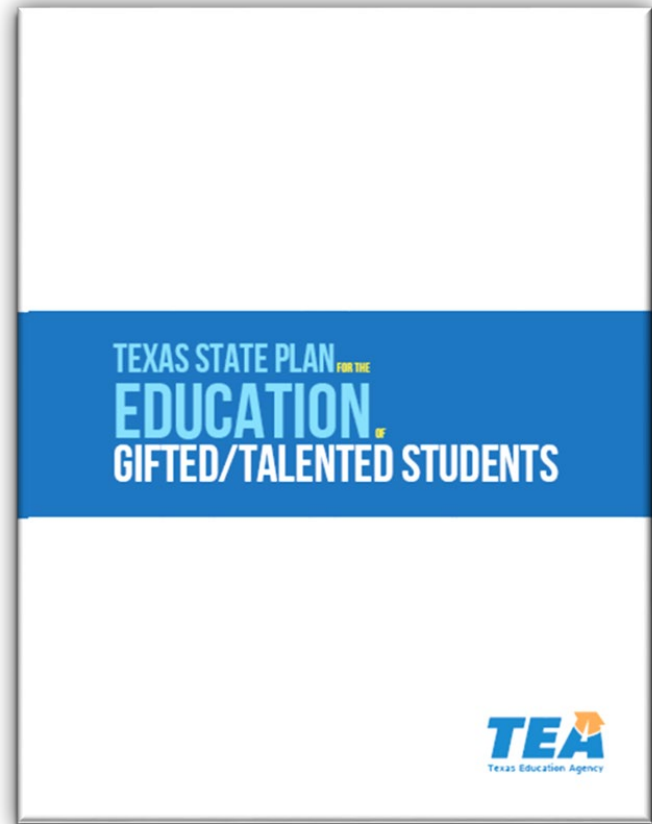
What is Gifted and Talented (G/T)?

WHAT IS GIFTED AND TALENTED?

A gifted/talented student 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 for leadership; or*
- *excels in a specific academic field.*

(Texas Education Code §29.121)



HOW DO I KNOW A STUDENT IS GIFTED/TALENTED?

All gifted children are not the same. It is important to note that there are not **one** or **two** characteristics that an educator can point to in order to say that a student is gifted. It is a **combination** of characteristics. Some signs that a student might be gifted include, but are *not limited to*:

- Extraordinary memory compared to peers
- Highly curious
- Highly creative
- Exhibits abstract reasoning and problem solving skills
- Draws inferences, grasps underlying principles
- Initiates projects
- Discusses things in detail, elaborates

What G/T services are offered in HISD?

G/T Services in HISD

- G/T students are served by teachers who have completed the required G/T trainings.
- G/T students work together as a group, work with other students, and work independently during the school day **throughout the entire school year.**
- G/T students must be assured an array of learning opportunities that are commensurate with their abilities and that **emphasize content in the four foundation curricular areas** (Language Arts/ Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies)

Where are G/T programs located in HISD?

- All HISD schools offer Gifted and Talented Programs.



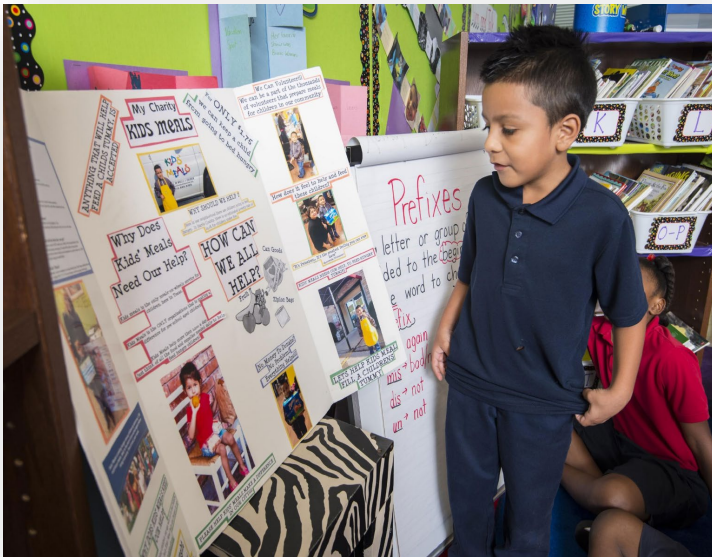
G/T Neighborhood Programs

- **Gifted and Talented Neighborhood Programs** are designed to meet the needs of all HISD G/T-identified students at that campus, whether:
 - Zoned to that campus
 - Not zoned to that campus and enrolled with a valid transfer
- With the exception of 15 Vanguard Magnet schools, all HISD schools offer a G/T Neighborhood program.



Vanguard Magnet Programs

- Products



- **Vanguard Magnet Programs** are designed to meet the needs of G/T students in designated Magnet schools in accordance with the HISD Magnet Standards.
- Vanguard Magnet schools provide G/T services to all HISD G/T-identified students at that campus, whether zoned to that campus or enrolled with a valid transfer.

Vanguard Magnet Programs

HISD

School Choice

**EDUCATION. YOUR
FUTURE, YOUR CHOICE.**

HISD Vanguard Magnet Campuses

Elementary Schools:

*Askew, Carrillo, De Zavala, Herod,
Oak Forest, River Oaks, Roosevelt,
T.H. Rogers, Travis, Windsor Village*

Middle Schools:

*Black, Burbank, Hamilton, Lanier, T.H.
Rogers*

High School:

Carnegie Vanguard

Identification of G/T Students

How is G/T identification for students initiated?

- The G/T identification can be initiated in five ways*:
 1. Parent nomination
 2. Teacher nomination
 3. Student self-nomination
 4. Universal Testing (Kinder and 5th Grade HISD students)

signed application is required for G/T Testing

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K-12 HISD GIFTED AND TALENTED NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS APPLICATION FOR 2020-2021
DO NOT USE THIS FORM TO APPLY TO A REQUEST PROGRAM

Students who are NOT CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED as Gifted and Talented in HISD
All required items listed below must be submitted, along with the signed application, to the HISD school to which you are enrolled/zoned to attend for the current grade level. Parent is responsible for submitting copies of all required data at the time of application.
G/T Application deadline: **December 6, 2019**. Deadline to request G/T testing: **December 7, 2019**.
Any necessary testing will be scheduled by the campus Gifted and Talented Coordinator.

☐ 2018-2019 End of Year report card (Current Grade 1-12 applicants if not enrolled in HISD for 2018-2019 school year)

☐ End of semester report card, December 2019 (Current Kindergarten applicants not currently enrolled in HISD)

☐ 2020-2021 HISD G/T Teacher Recommendation Form (If not currently enrolled in HISD)

STUDENT NAME: _____
Last First M.I.

HOME ADDRESS: _____
Number Street Apt. State ZIP

DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ CURRENT GRADE _____ HISD ID #: _____

CURRENT SCHOOL: _____ HISD? ☐ Yes ☐ No

HISD SCHOOL STUDENT ZONED TO ATTEND FOR CURRENT GRADE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____ PARENT PHONE NUMBER: _____

PARENT EMAIL: _____

IN WHICH LANGUAGE WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR CHILD TO TAKE TEST? (SELECT ONLY ONE) ☐ English ☐ Spanish
If your child is receiving any special services from any school or educational facility, please inform the campus Gifted and Talented Coordinator. Check what you are submitting district documentation:
☐ Special Education-Full Individual Evaluation (FIE) ☐ Section 504—504 Accommodation Plan ☐ Limited English Proficient (LEP)

Parents are required to provide documentation of special services with the Gifted and Talented Neighborhood Application.

Federal Student Ethnicity (select one)
☐ Hispanic/Latino
☐ Not Hispanic/Latino

Student Race (select all that apply)
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
☐ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
☐ Asian
☐ White
☐ Black or African American

2019-2020 REDUCED INCOME CHART
If your annual, monthly, or weekly salary is at or below these rates and your child is Hispanic/Latino, select one of the following boxes on page two, please check:

Total # in Household	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$23,107	\$1,926	\$445
2	\$31,284	\$2,607	\$602
3	\$39,461	\$3,290	\$759
4	\$47,638	\$3,970	\$917
5	\$55,815	\$4,652	\$1,074
6	\$63,992	\$5,333	\$1,231
7	\$72,169	\$6,015	\$1,388
8	\$80,346	\$6,696	\$1,546
For each additional member add	+\$8,177	+\$682	+\$158

REMINDER: Parents must submit all required documentation (report card, teacher recommendation, documentation of special services, etc.) with the signed application.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Revised July 2019

Application Process


- Students in all grades can apply for Gifted and Talented services in their neighborhood (zoned) school through the Gifted and Talented application
- Vanguard Magnet Applications can be done online by accessing www.hisdchoice.com
- Paper applications can be found on the School Choice or the Gifted and Talented websites:
 - <https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/31858>
 - <http://www.houstonisd.org/SchoolChoice>

G/T Application deadline:

December 7, 2019

Request G/T Testing deadline:

December 6th, 2019



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K-12 HISD GIFTED AND TALENTED NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS APPLICATION FOR 2020-2021

DO NOT USE THIS FORM TO APPLY TO A MAGNET PROGRAM

Students who are NOT CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED as Gifted and Talented in HISD

All required items listed below must be submitted, along with the signed application, to the HISD school to which you are enrolled/zoned to attend for the current grade level. Parent is responsible for submitting copies of all required data at the time of application.

G/T Application deadline: **December 6, 2019**. Deadline to request G/T testing: **December 7, 2019**. Any necessary testing will be scheduled by the campus Gifted and Talented Coordinator.

☐ 2018-2019 End of Year report card (Current Grade 1-12 applicants if not enrolled in HISD for 2018-2019 school year)

☐ End of semester report card, December 2019 (Current Kindergarten applicants not currently enrolled in HISD)

☐ 2020-2021 HISD G/T Teacher Recommendation Form (if not currently enrolled in HISD)

STUDENT NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ CURRENT GRADE: _____ HISD ID #: _____

CURRENT SCHOOL: _____ In HISD? ☐ Yes ☐ No

HISD SCHOOL STUDENT ZONED TO ATTEND FOR CURRENT GRADE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

PARENT PHONE NUMBER: _____

PARENT EMAIL: _____

IN WHICH LANGUAGE WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR CHILD TO BE TESTED? (SELECT ONLY ONE) ☐ English ☐ Spanish

If your child is receiving any special services from an HISD school or any educational facility, please inform the campus Gifted and Talented Coordinator. Check all that apply and submit district documentation:

☐ Special Education-Full Individual Evaluation (FIE) ☐ Section 504—504 Accommodation Plan ☐ Limited English Proficient (LEP)

Parents are required to provide documentation of special services with the Gifted and Talented Neighborhood Application.

Federal Student Ethnicity (select one)

☐ Hispanic/Latino

☐ Not Hispanic/Latino

Student Race (select all that apply)

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

☐ Asian

☐ White

☐ Black or African American

2019-2020 REDUCED INCOME CHART

If your annual, monthly, or weekly salary is at or below levels listed and corresponds to household size on same row, please check:

Total # in Household	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$23,107	\$1,925	\$445
2	\$31,284	\$2,607	\$602
3	\$39,461	\$3,290	\$759
4	\$47,638	\$3,970	\$917
5	\$55,815	\$4,652	\$1,074
6	\$63,992	\$5,333	\$1,231
7	\$72,169	\$6,015	\$1,388
8	\$80,346	\$6,696	\$1,546
For each additional member add	+\$8,177	+\$682	+\$158

REMINDER: Parents must submit all required documentation (report card, teacher recommendation, documentation of special services, etc.) with the signed application.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Revised July 2019

G/T Testing: Entering Kindergarten

- Students must be five years old on or before September 1st of the given school year to be eligible for Entering Kindergarten Gifted and Talented testing.
- Eligible students initiate participation in Entering Kindergarten G/T testing by:
 - Completing a Magnet application to a Vanguard Magnet school
 - Submitting an Entering Kindergarten G/T application at a participating neighborhood school.

Entering Kindergarten Testing Sites and Locations:

October 19 and 26, 2019, Askew Elementary, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

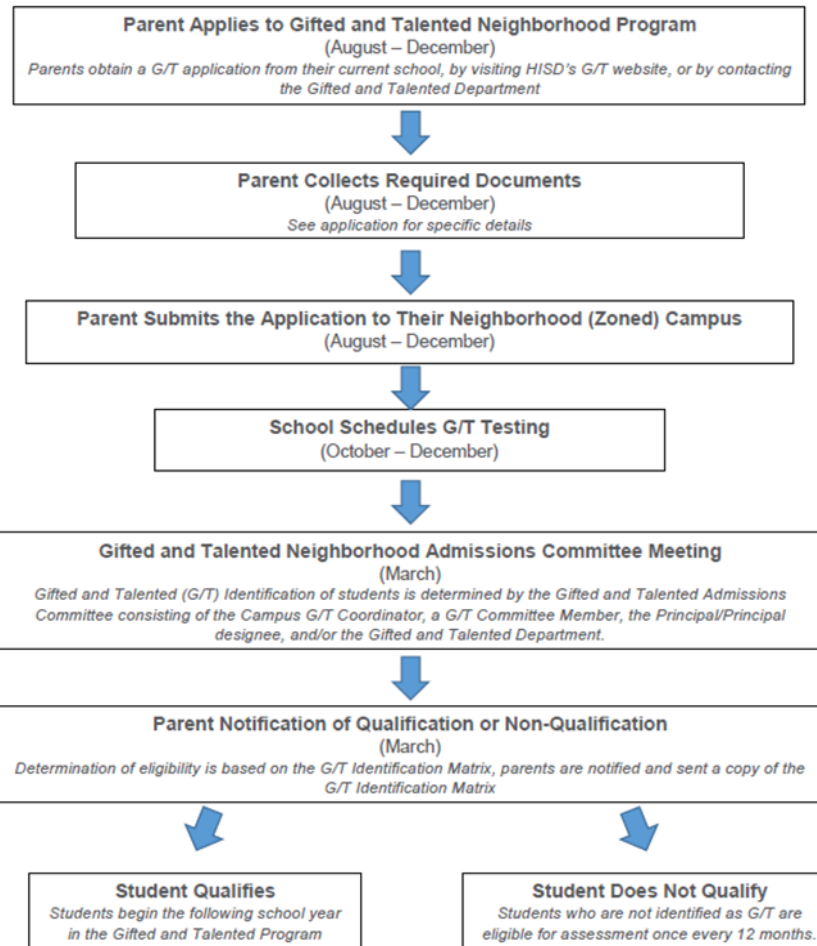
November 9, 2019, Carrillo Elementary, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

December 14, 2019, Carrillo Elementary, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Application Process continued

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Gifted and Talented Neighborhood Identification Process



How do I apply to a Vanguard Magnet program?

- Applications can be done online by accessing www.hisdchoice.com
- Paper applications can be found on the School Choice or the Gifted and Talented websites:
 - <https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/31858>
 - www.houstonisd.org/SchoolChoice

G/T Identification Process

Universal Testing: Kindergarten & 5th Grade

- All HISD kindergarten and fifth grade students not currently G/T-identified are assessed.
- No Application Required
- Universal K Testing window:
 - October 21st – December 14th

G/T Identification Process

Elementary and Secondary

- Grades 1st – 12th
 - The identification process takes place once a year for services to **begin the Spring of the current school year**
 - **Testing Window:**
 - **October 21st – December 14th, 2019**
 - » **Request G/T Testing deadline: December 7, 2019**
 - Student application must be submitted before the posted deadline
 - **Deadline: December 6th, 2019**

How are G/T tests administered?

- All assessments are administered during pre-established testing schedules/timelines by trained HISD staff.
- Students who are applying for the **Kindergarten Vanguard Magnet** program are assessed at centralized locations.
- Students who are applying for the **Kindergarten G/T Neighborhood** program are assessed at their zoned/neighborhood campus.
- Students who are applying for the **Vanguard Magnet** program or the **Gifted and Talented Neighborhood** program, **grades 1-12**, are assessed at their enrolled HISD school or, if not enrolled in HISD, their zoned HISD school.

Admissions of G/T Students

How do students qualify for the Gifted and Talented Program?

- Identification as G/T is determined by points obtained based on various criteria:
 - Achievement Test, Abilities Test, and other District Criteria
- Scores are entered and converted into points on HISD's G/T Identification Matrix.

Re-admission of G/T Students



FURLOUGH REQUEST FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS

Furloughs are considered on an individual basis for students currently identified as Gifted and Talented (G/T) in HISD. The purpose of a gifted and talented furlough is for the student to retain his/her G/T identification only. The gifted and talented furlough does not guarantee the student a seat at an HISD school to which he/she is not zoned to attend.

Parents: please return completed form to the campus' Gifted and Talented Coordinator

STUDENT'S NAME: _____
Last First M.I.

DATE OF BIRTH: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____ CURRENT GRADE: ____ HISD I.D. #: ____

SCHOOL CURRENTLY ATTENDING: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S CONTACT NUMBER: _____

REASON FOR REQUESTING FURLOUGH (ATTACH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION):

EFFECTIVE DATES OF FURLOUGH: ____/____/____ TO ____/____/____

I certify all the information given is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. If a furlough is granted based on false information, it is subject to revocation. The maximum time allowed is one year after the furlough is granted. If the student does not enroll in an HISD Gifted and Talented program at the end of the furlough timeline, he/she will lose G/T identification and will need to reapply at a later date.

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT): _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

G/T COORDINATOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

----- TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ADVANCED ACADEMICS DEPARTMENT -----

FURLOUGH (CHECK ONE): GRANTED ____ DENIED ____

G/T DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Submit the original document to Advanced Academics for final approval and retain a copy for school records.

Revised July 2018

- Students are admitted into the HISD Gifted and Talented Program only after they have been identified as **Qualified by the HISD G/T Identification Matrix.**
- If an HISD G/T student leaves the district and returns to HISD within **60 instructional days**, the student retains his/her G/T identification.
 - A gifted and talented furlough is required in order for the student to retain his/her GT identification in HISD if his/her absence will be **greater than 60 instructional days.**

Furloughs, Transfers, and Exits

Furlough for G/T Students

- Furloughs are considered on an individual basis for students currently identified as Gifted and Talented in HISD.
- The purpose of a gifted and talented furlough is for the student to **retain his/her G/T identification only**.
- The gifted and talented furlough does not guarantee the student a seat at an HISD school to which he/she is not zoned to attend.
- The student will retain his/her G/T identification during the length of the furlough, but will be coded **G/T Identified Not Served** in the Student Information System (SIS).
- If the student resumes HISD G/T services within the furlough's specified timeline the student will be coded G/T Identified and Served in the Student Information System (SIS).
- If the student does not resume HISD G/T services within the furlough's specified timeline, the student will lose his/her HISD G/T identification.

Transfer of G/T Students

- **INTRADISTRICT:**

- Transfer students who have been identified as G/T according to established District criteria shall continue in the gifted and talented program at the campus to which they transfer.
- If a HISD G/T-identified student has not been coded in HISD's Student Information System (SIS), the student's Qualified HISD G/T Identification Matrix must be provided to the Gifted and Talented Coordinator at the campus to which they transfer.

- **OUT OF DISTRICT:**

- Transfer students who have been identified as G/T by a previous school district must follow the HISD G/T identification process.

Active Military Families of G/T Students

- Children of active military families who have been identified as G/T according to their previous school's criteria shall be served in the Gifted and Talented Program at the HISD campus to which they enroll provided the student's Gifted and Talented identification documentation is submitted.

Gifted and Talented Voluntary Exit



VOLUNTARY EXIT Gifted and Talented Programs

I, _____, the parent/legal guardian of _____ am
Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian Printed Student Name
requesting that he/she be exited from the Gifted and Talented program at

_____. This is in the best interest of my child after conferring
Printed Name of School
with the Gifted and Talented teacher(s) and the Gifted and Talented Coordinator. I understand
that my child may not re-enter the Gifted and Talented Program for this school year. I also
understand that in order for my child to be reconsidered for the Gifted and Talented Program for
the next school year, I must complete the application process again, and my child must re-qualify
for the Gifted and Talented Program.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Gifted and Talented Coordinator

Date

Signature of Principal or Designee

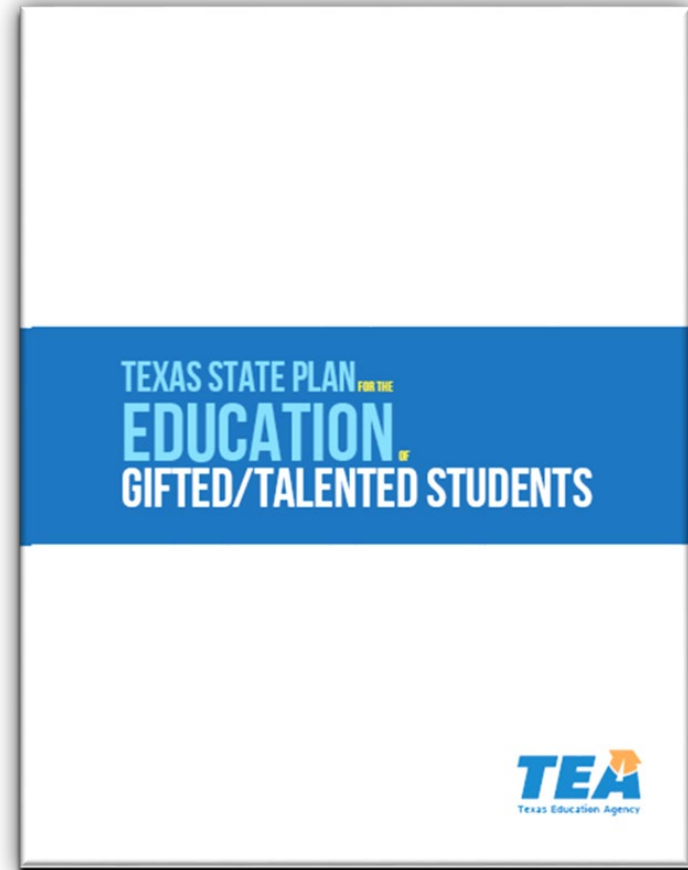
Date

- Students may be exited from HISD G/T services at the request of a parent/guardian.
- The Gifted and Talented Voluntary Exit form must be submitted to the Gifted and Talented Coordinator at the student's campus.

Curriculum and Instruction

Curriculum and Instruction

- The Texas State Plan for The Education of Gifted/Talented Students mandates that districts meet the needs of gifted/talented students by **modifying the depth, complexity, and pacing of the curriculum** and instruction ordinarily provided by the school.
- Prior to selecting an instructional delivery model, the school shall conduct a comprehensive analysis of G/T students per grade level, students' instructional needs, and faculty G/T training, as they relate to the schools' academic goals/objectives.



Curriculum and Instruction

- In grades K-12, all G/T students shall **receive instruction daily by a G/T trained teacher** implementing differentiation through acceleration, adding depth and complexity, higher level thinking skills and developing independent research skills in the four **(4) foundation curricular areas** (English Language Arts/Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies), emphasizing advanced level products.

Curriculum and Instruction

District Wide G/T Expo

- Each school may bring up to three products (individuals or small groups)
- April 21, 2020



QUESTIONS

Gifted and Talented Department

(713)556-6954

Administrative Assistant

Raquel Martinez (RMARTI26@houstonisd.org)

Program Specialists

Aurora DeLuna (adeluna1@houstonisd.org), Sr. G/T Specialist

Eva (Terri) Garcia (eva.garcia@houstonisd.org), G/T Specialist

Cecily Hale (chale1@houstonisd.org), Online Training Specialist

Renee Ricca (rricca@houstonisd.org), G/T Specialist

Melanie White (mwhite8@houstonisd.org), Sr. G/T Specialist

Thank you

Date: Fall 2019

Presenters:

*Aurora DeLuna, Terri Garcia, Cecily Hale,
Renee Ricca and Melanie White*



How to Apply to a Magnet Program

STEP ONE

- Review your student's interests and needs and look for alignment with specific Magnet programs.
- Use the information and links at www.HoustonISD.org/SchoolChoice.
- Consider how you will rank your choices. You will have a limit of 5 choices. (It is recommended that parents weigh their options carefully and consider the following: if you apply to 5 Vanguard programs, and a student has not been identified as G/T prior to the Phase I deadline and subsequently does not qualify as G/T, the student will not be considered for any of the Vanguard programs you applied to.)
- Visit selected programs on School Choice Thursdays

STEP TWO

Visit www.HISDChoice.com to apply online.

- If you have used the system before, please use your previous account.
- Paper applications are available online, at any Magnet program, or from the Office of School Choice. (Online applications provide more options for tracking and staying up-to-date.)
- Make sure to sign and submit your application.
- Qualified applications submitted Between Sep. 28 and Dec. 7, 2018, will be entered into any lotteries. **Deadline to be entered in the lottery is December 7, 2018.**

STEP THREE

- For elementary programs, only Vanguard applications may require documentation.
- Please be on the lookout for emails or phone calls related to your application.

STEP FOUR

- Check your SPAM folder to ensure you are not missing any information. If at all possible, do not use a Hotmail account, as the service usually blocks emails from HISD.
- By **midnight on March 21, 2019**, notification of the application status will be viewable online and letters will be sent to all parents via USPS mail.

STEP FIVE

- If your student has been offered a seat in a program, you have two weeks to provide proof of residence and sign an entrance agreement.
- If your student was not offered a seat on March 21, 2019, but has been placed on a wait list, stay alert for changes in application status throughout the summer. You may be able to submit additional applications to programs with more room.

SCHOOL CHOICE THURSDAYS

On the following Thursdays, you are welcome to tour any HISD school. Elementary and K-8 schools will host tours at 9 a.m., secondary schools at 1 p.m.

October: 4, 11, 18, 25

November: 1, 8, 15, 29*

December: 6*

*(All Schools will offer 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. tours)

SCHOOL CHOICE FAIRS

Sept. 29: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Sterling High School

Oct. 20: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Washington High School

Nov. 10: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Westbury High School

Dec. 1: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Milby High School

Apr. 27 (Space Available Schools - Non-Lottery): 9 a.m.– 12 p.m. at Gregory Lincoln Education Center

PHASES

Phases separate applications into various windows of time.

Phase 1 (Sep. 28 – Dec. 7, 2018) All qualified in-district applications received during this phase **will be entered into lotteries or be offered auditions.**

Phase 2 (Dec. 8, 2018 – May 31, 2019) All qualified in-district applications received during this phase will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, if space is available.

Phase 3 (June 1 – July 31, 2019) Like Phase 2, but during this time out-of-district applications will be considered for a program if no in-district applicants remain.

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

1. Houston Independent School District: www.HoustonISD.org
2. HISD Find a School: www.HoustonISD.org/findaschool

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
HISD Office of School Choice

Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center • 4400 West 18th Street • Houston, Texas 77092-8501
www.HoustonISD.org • 713-556-6947 • e-mail: osc@houstonisd.org

Guide to Gifted and Talented Programs

WHAT IS THE GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM?

The **Gifted and Talented Program** is designed for HISD's Gifted and Talented (G/T) students in grades K-12 who excel in *general intellectual ability* in combination with *creative/productive thinking* and/or *leadership* ability. Gifted and Talented programs provide services that are comprehensive, structured, sequenced, and appropriately challenging. HISD curriculum is **differentiated** by modifying the **depth, complexity**, and **pacing** of the general school program, utilizing higher-level thinking skills, and developing *independent research skills* focusing on *advanced-level products*.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GIFTED AND TALENTED NEIGHBORHOOD AND VANGUARD MAGNET PROGRAMS?

Gifted and Talented Neighborhood Programs are designed to provide G/T services on a campus for all G/T students who are enrolled at that campus. With the exception of 15 Vanguard Magnet schools and a few unique campuses such as early childhood learning centers and some charter schools, all HISD schools offer a G/T Neighborhood program.

Vanguard Magnet Programs are designed to meet the needs of G/T students in Board-approved Magnet schools in accordance with the district and Magnet Guidelines. Vanguard Magnet schools provide services to their zoned G/T students and students on a Vanguard Magnet transfer. There are ten elementary Vanguard Magnet schools, five Vanguard Magnet middle schools, and one Vanguard Magnet high school.

HOW TO APPLY TO A VANGUARD MAGNET PROGRAM?

Students applying to a Vanguard Magnet school must submit an HISD Magnet application **following the Magnet timelines and policies**.

HOW TO APPLY TO A GIFTED AND TALENTED NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM?

Students can apply for G/T services at their neighborhood (zoned) school by submitting the Gifted and Talented Neighborhood Programs application to their enrolled campus.

HISD

Gifted and Talented

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HOW DO STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM?

Gifted and Talented (G/T) identification in HISD is determined by points obtained based on various criteria: an achievement test, an abilities test, and other district criteria. Scores are entered and converted into points on HISD's G/T Identification Matrix.

WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

You may contact the principal or Gifted and Talented Coordinator at any HISD campus. You can also reach HISD's Gifted and Talented Department at 713-556-6954.

MORE INFORMATION

The Gifted and Talented Department website:
<https://www.houstonisd.org/Domain/32983>

The Office of School Choice website:
<https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/133703>

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Gifted and Talented Neighborhood Identification Process

