



SOUTH TEXAS ISD

 Always Innovating  
**South Texas ISD**  
RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 4-12

# GIFTED AND TALENTED NOMINATION PROCESS

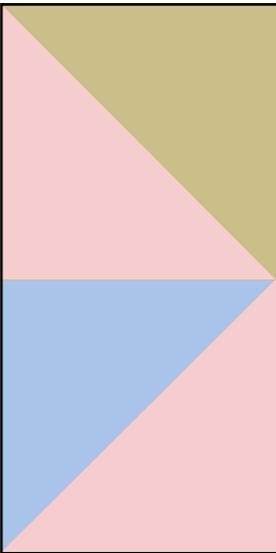
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## AGENDA

- What it means to be gifted
- STISD Gifted and Talented Program
- Identifying Gifted and Talented learners at South Texas ISD
- FAQ



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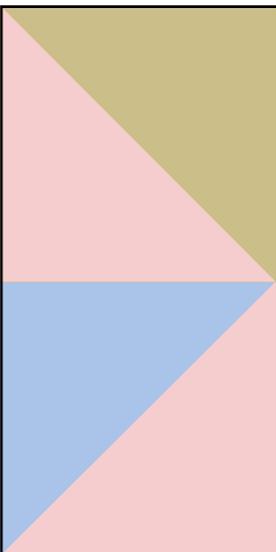


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## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE GIFTED

“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 exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area, possesses an unusual capacity for leadership, or excels in a specific academic field (TEC Subchapter D §29.121).”

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## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE GIFTED

“Gifted individuals are those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude (defined as an exceptional ability to reason and learn) or competence (documented performance or achievement in top 10% or rarer) in one or more domains. Domains include any structured area of activity with its own symbol system (e.g., mathematics, music, language) and/or set of sensorimotor skills (e.g., painting, dance, sports).”

-[National Association for Gifted Children](#)

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## THE BRIGHT/GIFTED CHILD

### BRIGHT CHILD

- Knows the answers Is interested
- Is attentive Has good ideas Works hard
- Answers the Questions Top group
- Listens with interest Learns with ease
- 6-8 repetitions for mastery Understands ideas
- Enjoys peers Grasps the meaning
- Completes assignments Is receptive
- Copies accurately Enjoys school Absorbs school Technician
- Good memorizer
- Enjoys straightforward, sequential presentation Is alert
- Is pleased with own learning

### GIFTED LEARNER

- Asks the questions Is highly curious
- Is mentally and physically involved Has wild, silly ideas
- Plays around, yet tests well Discusses in detail, elaborates Beyond the group
- Shows strong feelings and opinions Already knows
- 1-2 repetitions for mastery Constructs abstractions Prefers adults
- Draws inferences Initiates projects Is intense
- Creates a new design Enjoys learning Manipulates information Inventor
- Good guesser
- Thrives on complexity Is keenly observant
- Is highly self-critical

*By: Janice Szabos, Gifted Child Quarterly*

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## SIGNS OF GIFTEDNESS IN CHILDREN INCLUDE:



an extreme need for constant mental stimulation



an ability to learn and process complex information rapidly



a need to explore subjects in surprising depth



an insatiable curiosity, as demonstrated by endless questions and inquiries



ability to comprehend material several grade levels above their age peers

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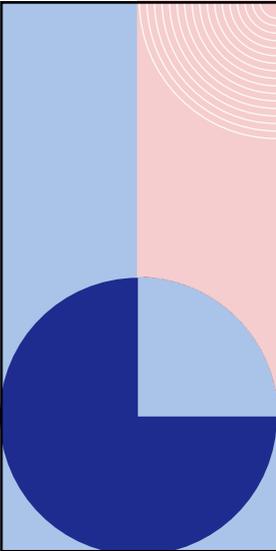
## SIGNS OF GIFTEDNESS IN CHILDREN INCLUDE:

-  surprising emotional depth and sensitivity at a young age
-  enthusiastic about unique interests and topics
-  self-aware, socially aware, and aware of global issues
-  creative problem solving and imaginative expression
-  absorbs information quickly with few repetitions needed

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## GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

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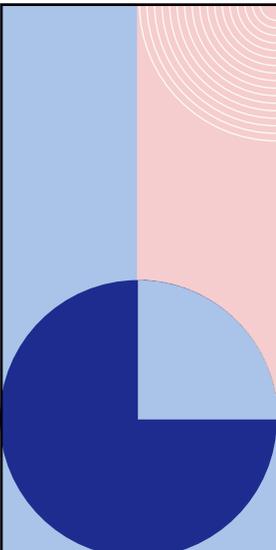


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## STISD'S PROGRAM VISION AND MISSION

**Vision:**  
South Texas ISD will be a leader and innovator in the development of the gifted and talented students intellectual, creative and leadership potential through participation in an exemplary program that fosters the gifted and talented students' unique needs and abilities.

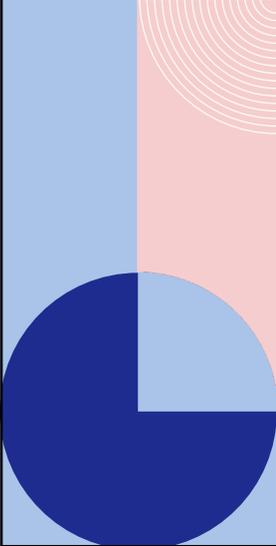
**Mission:**  
It is the mission of STISD'S Gifted and Talented Program to implement best practices by which we identify, teach, support and nurture gifted and talented students to be lifelong scholars, critical thinkers, innovators, leaders and global contributors.



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## STATE GOAL FOR SERVICES FOR GIFTED/TALENTED STUDENTS

Students who participate in services designed for gifted/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.

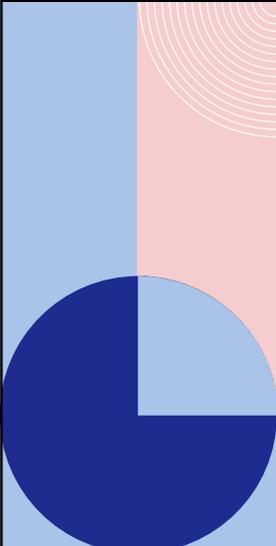


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## STISD'S PROGRAM GOALS

- Goal 1: Establish an equitable and effective identification process for gifted and talented students.
- Goal 2: Maintain equitable participation and increase performance in advanced academic opportunities.
- Goal 3: Increase and vary enrichment opportunities for gifted and talented students.
- Goal 4: Provide parents and teachers with the tools and resources to gain knowledge to support gifted and talented students.

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## STISD'S G/T PROGRAM

- Once identified, students will be provided services based on their strengths and interests and provided opportunities to produce advanced level products, such as those provided by the Texas Performance Standards Projects.
- In addition, as commensurate with their abilities, students will be provided opportunities to accelerate in their areas of strength.
- These programs may include Honors, Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment classes. In addition, South Texas ISD will provide opportunities for gifted/talented students to pursue areas of interest in selected disciplines through guided and independent research. Opportunities for students to participate in the Texas Performance Standards Projects or other experiences that lead to the development of advanced-level products will be provided.

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## NOMINATION

The G/T identification of a student can be initiated in three ways:

- Parent nomination
- Teacher nomination
- Student self-nomination

You can nominate an STISD student in two ways:

- Using our online form or
- Using by submitting the form posted on our website and sending it to your campus administrator

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## SCREENING CRITERIA

Meeting criteria in at least two (2) of the following areas will permit the referred students to enter the screening phase:

- Previously enrolled in a GT Program in another public school district
- Parent input
- Teacher input
- Student self-evaluation of interests
- Grades (top 10% of semester average within language arts and/or mathematics)

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# TESTING

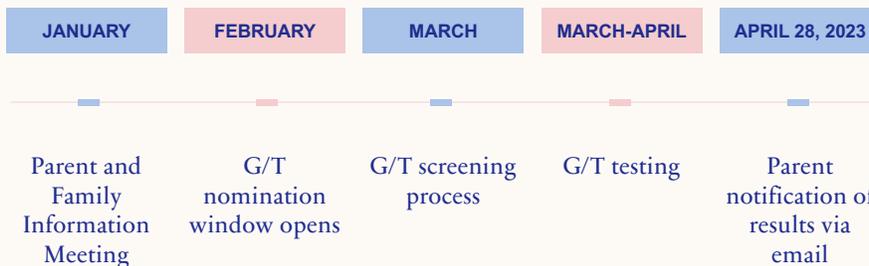
- If additional testing is recommended after the screening process, parents of those selected will receive a letter asking for permission to test. South Texas ISD students may be referred and re-screened once every year, with twelve months passing between each assessment event.
- South Texas ISD will provide assessment opportunities for gifted/talented identification at least once per school year.

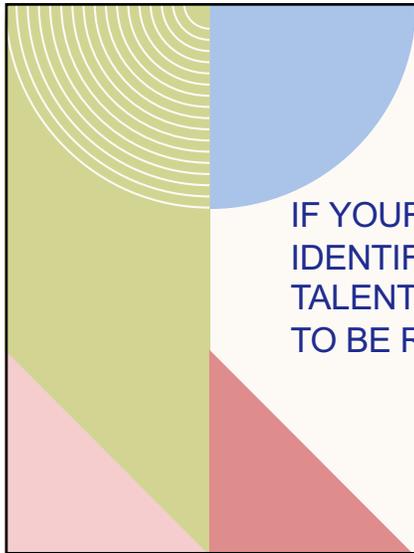
## 2022-2023

### Assessment window March 1-April 1, 2023

*\*South Texas ISD strongly suggests that students not be referred for more than two sequential years without a significant change in the data. The District will not initiate the referral unless the parent requests it.*

# TIMELINE





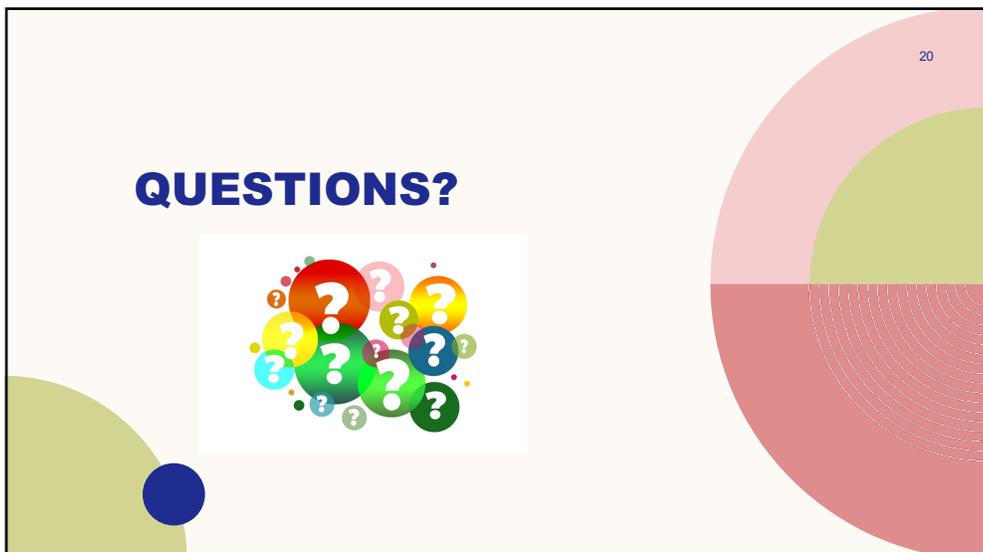
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IF YOUR CHILD IS ALREADY IDENTIFIED AS GIFTED AND TALENTED, HE/SHE DOES NOT NEED TO BE REASSESSED.

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**QUESTIONS?**



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## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT?

- The State of Texas goal requires students who participate in services designed for gifted students to demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, and 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 students will have produced products and performances of professional quality as part of their program services.

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## WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER WHEN YOU DO A SCREENING FOR GIFTED PROGRAMMING IN STISD?

- Areas considered in screening for gifted programming in South Texas Independent School District are as follows:
  1. Ability
  2. Achievement
  3. Observed Performance

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## WHAT IS ON THE TEST? WHAT CAN THE STUDENT DO TO PREPARE?

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- The CogAT appraises the cognitive development of students from sixth through 12 grade.
- The questions on CogAT require students to demonstrate their reasoning abilities in each of the three symbol systems most closely related to success in school: verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning and nonverbal reasoning.
  - The Verbal Battery assesses students' abilities to use search, retrieval and comparison processes that are essential for verbal reasoning.
  - The Quantitative Battery assesses students' abilities to reason about patterns and relations using concepts that are essential in quantitative thinking.
  - The Nonverbal Battery assesses students' abilities to reason with somewhat more novel questions that use spatial and figural content.

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## WHO MAKES THE PLACEMENT DECISIONS REGARDING STUDENT PLACEMENT IN GIFTED PROGRAMMING AT STISD?

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- It is state law that GT placement decisions be made by a district committee of GT trained professionals. STISD uses campus GT placement decisions.

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### **HOW MANY PEOPLE SERVE ON THESE CAMPUS GT PLACEMENT COMMITTEES?**

- By state law there must be a minimum of three persons on that committee. The number will vary from campus to campus, but they will all have at least three STISD professional staff members.

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### **WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION?**

- You may file an appeal letter addressed to the GT Placement Committee and delivered to the GT Campus Coordinator.

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## GIFTED AND TALENTED SERVICES AT STISD

- Identified students in grades 6-12 are provided service through Honors, AP or Dual classes with GT-trained teachers in the core subject areas of English language arts, social studies, science, and mathematics.
- Curricular compacting, lesson differentiation, and participation in the projects aligned to the [Texas Performance Standards Project \(TPSP\)](#) are some of the many curricular options utilized in core GT classes.

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## DISTRICT CONTACT DR. BRENDA DE LA GARZA

Special Programs Director  
(956)514-4259

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