

Gifted and Talented Information for Families

Fall 2026



Anderson High School
Natalie Adams, Campus GT Advocate



GT Services and Talent Explore Program



What is Gifted and Talented (GT)?

- Protected by Texas State Law and District Policy.
- Gifted and Talented (GT) refers to a child who performs or shows the potential of performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment.
- Gifted and talented children may also exhibit an unusual capacity for leadership or high-performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area.



What is Talent Explore (TE)?

- A program unique to Austin ISD
- Designed to support students who show potential for high achievement
- Opportunities to participate in GT Services
- TE students can be retested for GT Services in future years

In Which Areas Can a Student Be Identified?



Gifted & Talented Humanities		Gifted & Talented STEM	
★ Language Arts	★ Social Studies	★ Mathematics	★ Science

Talent Explore Humanities		Talent Explore STEM	
★ Language Arts	★ Social Studies	★ Mathematics	★ Science

- A student can be identified as GT in all areas
- A student can be identified in one humanities area (Language Arts) and STEM area (Science)
- A student can be both GT and TE
 - A student cannot be identified as Gifted and Talented and Talent Explore in the same area



SERVICE MODEL

In Austin ISD, GT services are provided at every campus for GT-identified students.

ELEMENTARY

Elementary GT students are placed in a GT cluster off 3-7 GT students. The GT cluster is placed in a general education classroom with a teacher who has completed GT training. Elementary GT students participate in personalized learning opportunities, including extension and enrichment activities. GT students have opportunities to work together in pairs, small groups, independently, and alongside others in the general education classroom.

SECONDARY

Secondary GT services include instruction by teachers who have completed GT training and the following options:

- Advanced Courses, Advanced Placement (open enrollment)
- Magnet Program/School (requires admission)
- International Baccalaureate (requires admission)
- Dual Credit (requires passing TSI score)
- UT OnRamps Courses (open enrollment)
- Advanced-level CTE courses



What Does GT Look Like in Austin ISD?



UNDERSTAND THE GT SERVICE MODEL

ELEMENTARY

- **CLASSROOM CLUSTERS**

Small groups of GT Learners are placed together in a general education classroom

- **FLEXIBLE GROUPING**

Opportunities to work individually, in small groups, and as a whole group

- **DIFFERENTIATION**

Instruction is tailored to meet the unique needs of GT Learners

SECONDARY

- **ADVANCED COURSES**

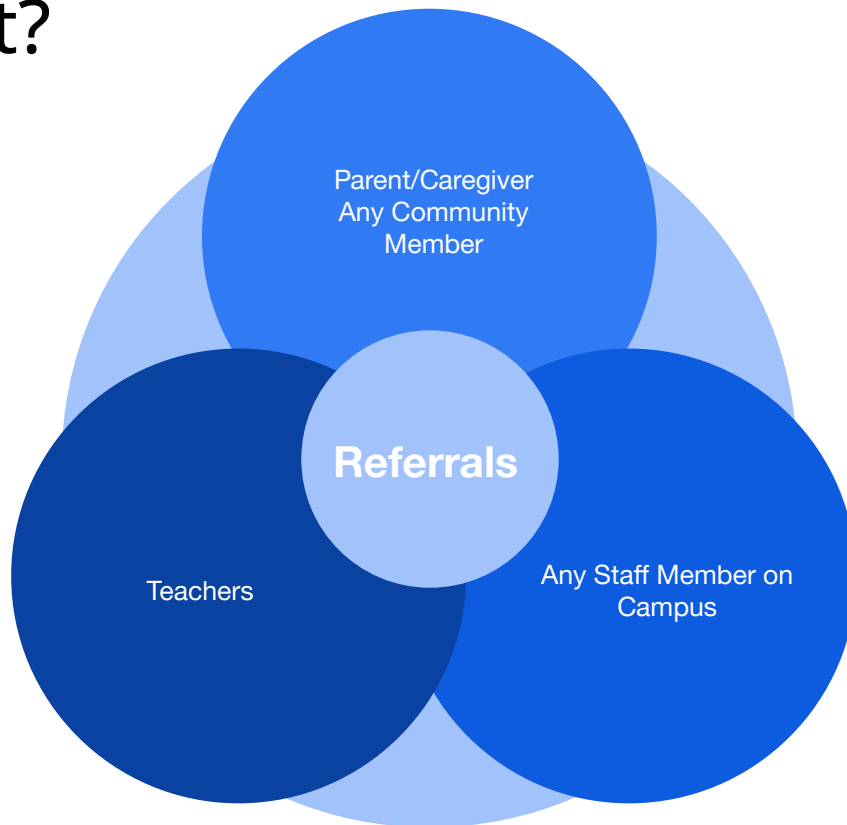
GT services are provided through Advanced Courses (Course options include AP, IB, Dual Credit, and more). Flexible grouping and differentiation continue in advanced courses in order to deepen learning, encourage critical thinking, and prepare students for future success.





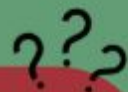
Who can refer a student?

Regardless of who refers the student, forms will be requested from **BOTH** the **teacher** and the **parent/caregiver**.





Student Assessments for Identification



What are the NNAT and CogAT?

NNAT

(K & 1st Only)

The NNAT (Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test) is an assessment used to measure a child's reasoning and problem-solving skills without relying on language. It uses shapes and patterns to evaluate how children understand and analyze visual information, making it suitable for students from diverse backgrounds. The NNAT is often used to identify gifted and talented students in elementary schools.

CogAT

(2nd-12th)

The CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) is an assessment used to evaluate students' reasoning abilities in three key areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. The verbal section measures language-based reasoning skills, the quantitative section assesses numerical problem-solving abilities, and the nonverbal section evaluates reasoning using shapes and patterns, which minimizes language bias.

Type

Grades K & 1st

Grades 2nd-12th

Formal Assessment (Quantitative Measure)

- NNAT (untimed)
- MAP Growth (Fall)
 - Reading
 - Math

- CogAT
 - 2nd grade is untimed
 - 3rd-12th is timed; 10 min per subtest

Online Referral Form (Qualitative Measure)

- Teacher Observation Form
- Parent Observation Form

- Teacher Observation Form
- Parent Observation Form

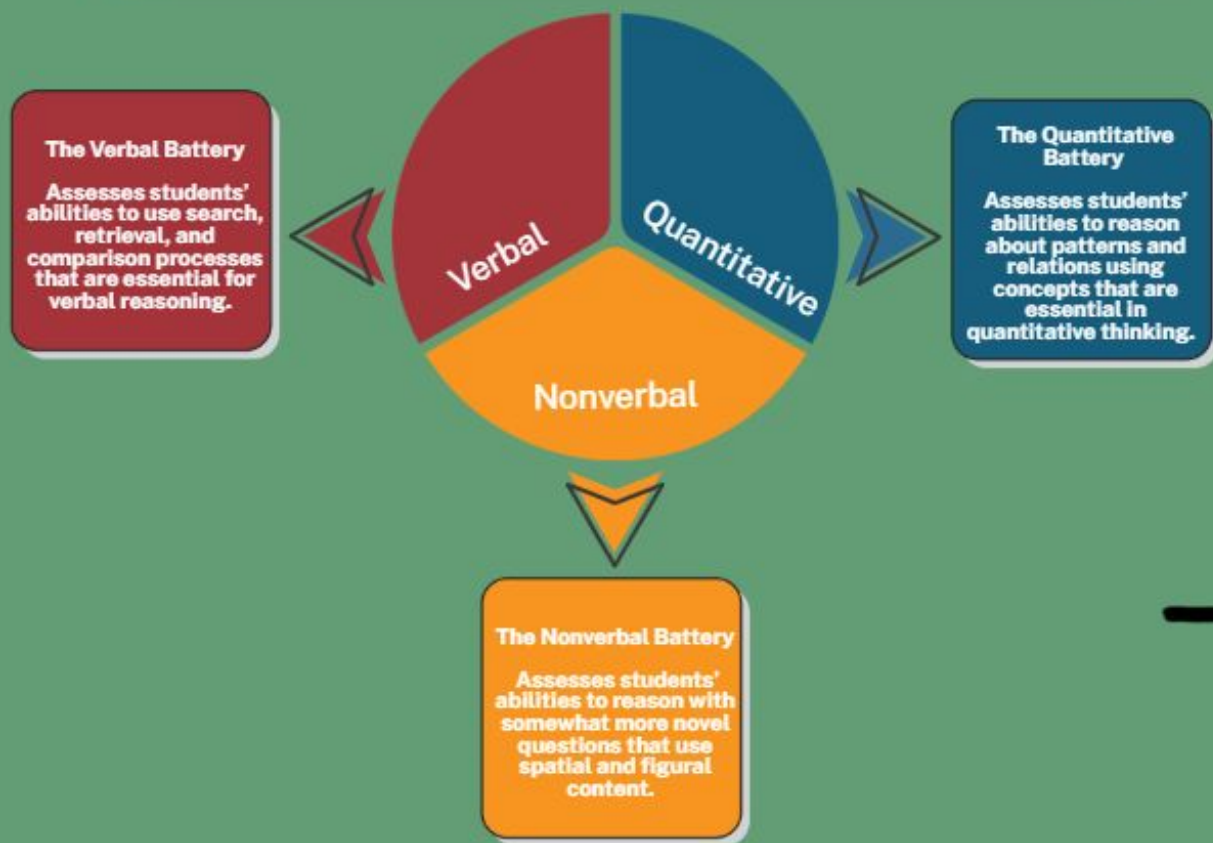
Possible Qualitative Measures (Qualitative Measure)

- Possible student work samples
- Possible common grade level assessments

- Possible student work samples
- Possible common grade level assessments

CogAT Batteries

2nd-12th grades



CLICK HERE



GT Referral Process Fall 2026

for Families

STEP 1

Refer your student!
GT Referral Window 8/18- 10/16

- Submit a **GT referral** from 8/18 to 10/16
- All 2nd Graders will also participate in the GT Universal Screener 9/22 to 10/7



STEP 2

Submit the
Parent Observation Form by 11/13

- Parents who fill out a referral form are automatically sent the link to submit the Parent Observation Form
- Families of students referred by a staff or faculty member will be contacted to submit a Parent Observation Form



STEP 3

Assessment Window
10/26-11/20

- Begin GT Assessments.
 - K-1 students take NNAT
 - 3-12 take CogAT
 - 2nd Graders moving forward after the Universal Screener, and those referred, complete the CogAT



STEP 4

Teacher Observations
10/26-11/13

- Teacher(s) will complete an observation form for each referred student



STEP 5

Committee Meeting
and GT Decision

- Each campus will have a Committee Meeting between 12/2-12/16 to review assessments, observations, and make recommendations for GT services



STEP 6

Families Notified by
12/18

- Families will be informed of the committee decision by 12/18
- GT Services for newly-identified GT students begin in January 2027



Committee Review

All assessment information is reviewed by the members of the GT committee and an administrator.

The committee reviews different pieces of information and follows a rubric made by Austin ISD to determine qualification for GT services (and in which subject areas).

Parents/caregivers are notified of the decision by the campus.

Required	Optional
• CogAT • (Grades 2-12) • NNAT • (Grades K-1) • Teacher Observation • Parent Observation	• Work Samples • Common Assessments • Student Interviews





Bright v. Gifted

What are the differences?

High-Achieving, Gifted, and Creative Learners

Which characteristics describe your child?

Most children have characteristics in multiple areas!



 High-Achiever	 Gifted Learner	 Creative Learner
Remembers the answers	Poses unforeseen questions	Sees exceptions
Is interested	Is curious	Wonders
Is attentive	Is selectively mentally engaged	Daydreams; may seem off task
Generates advanced ideas	Generates complex, abstract ideas	Overflows with ideas, many of which will never be developed
Works hard to achieve	Knows without working hard	Plays with ideas and concepts
Answer the questions in detail	Ponders with depth and multiple perspectives	Injects new possibilities
Performs at the top of the group	Is beyond the group	Is in their own group
Responds with interest and opinions	Exhibits feelings and opinions from multiple perspectives	Shares bizarre, sometimes conflicting opinions
Learns with ease	Already knows	Questions: What if...
Needs 6 to 8 repetitions to master	Needs 1 to 3 repetitions to master	Questions the need for mastery
Comprehends at a high level	Comprehends in-depth, complex ideas	Overflows with ideas—many of which will never be developed
Enjoys the company of age peers	Prefers the company of intellectual peers	Prefers the company of creative peers but often works alone
Understands complex, abstract humor	Creates complex, abstract humor	Relishes wild, off-the-wall humor
Grasps the meaning	Infers and connects concepts	Makes mental leaps: Aha!
Completes assignments on time	Initiates projects and extensions of assignments	Initiates more projects that will ever be completed
Is receptive	Is intense	Is independent and unconventional
Is accurate and complete	Is original and continually developing	Is original and continually developing
Enjoys school often	Enjoys self-directed learning	Enjoys creating
Absorbs information	Manipulates information	Improvises
Is a technician with expertise in a field	Is an expert who abstracts beyond the field	Is an inventor and idea generator
Memorizes well	Guesses and infers well	Creates and brainstorms well
Is highly alert and observant	Anticipates and relates observations	Is intuitive
Is pleased with own learning	Is self-critical	Is never finished with possibilities
Gets "A"s	May not be motivated by grades	May not be motivated by grades
Is able	Is intellectual	Is idiosyncratic



Adapted from: Galbraith, M.A., and Jim Delisle. *The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide: A Teen Handbook* MN: Free Spirit Publishing, 1996



GT Transfers

In District v. Out of District

- This [link will](#) take you to the following tile in the AISD Portal
- or
- You can search OOD GT Services Transfer in the AISD Portal



In-District Transfer	Out-of-District Transfer
If a student is moving from one Austin ISD school to another, the GT identification will follow the student.	If a student identified as GT is moving into Austin ISD from another school district (in-state or out-of-state), a transfer form must be submitted.
Helpful Tip: It is beneficial to let the student's new campus GT Advocate know that the student has moved.	Helpful Tip: 1. Parent should contact the campus GT Advocate. 2. Parents and Advocate gather paperwork from previous out-of-district school. 3. Parents submit the transfer form: <u>Transfer Review Form</u>



Family Connection

GT Family Guide

Welcome to
Gifted and Talented (GT) Services
A Family Guide



What is GT?

Gifted and talented (GT) refers to a child who performs or shows the potential of performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment. Gifted and talented children may also exhibit an unusual capacity for leadership or high-performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area.

-Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted and Talented Students

GT Identification Process

All campuses in Austin ISD offer Gifted and Talented screening in grades K-12 based on annual referrals received by the Campus GT Advocate. During the designated annual referral window, parents/caregivers, community members, and/or teachers/staff may submit a referral for evaluation for GT services. In addition to referrals, all 2nd graders participate in a Universal Screener.

GT evaluation includes GT assessments, teacher and parent observation forms, and other measures as needed to determine a need for GT services. The Campus GT Committee completes a holistic review of each student and the Campus GT Advocate will communicate the decision in writing.

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Applications (10)



Gifted & Talented Family Connection

AISD Google Sites



Gifted &
Talented Fa...

WELCOME FAMILIES



Click below to explore family resources

WHAT IS GT?

¿QUÉ ES GT?



GT Referral Process Fall 2025 for Families

STEP 1

Refer your student!
GT Referral Window 8/18-10/17

- Submit a **GT referral** between 8/20 to 10/17
- All 2nd Graders will also participate in the GT Universal Screener 10/24 to 10/25

STEP 2

Submit the
Parent/Caregiver Observation Form by 11/7

- Parents/Caregivers who filed out a referral form, automatically received the link to submit the Parent/Caregiver Observation Form
- Families of students who were identified as a staff or faculty member will be contacted to submit a Parent/Caregiver Observation Form

STEP 3

Assessment Window 10/27-11/21

- Begin 1st Assessments:
 - All students take IAPA
 - 3-5 take CogAT
- 2nd Graders moving forward after the Universal Screener, and those referred, complete the CogAT

STEP 4

Teacher Observations

Page 1 / 2

Universal Screening

STEP 6

Parents/Caregivers





Thank You!