

Weimar Independent School District

Gifted and Talented Program

Philosophy and Definition

In an American society, which seeks to challenge the abilities of all students, it is necessary for the school district to provide a program which will help those who are capable of high performance. Realizing that some of the students in our society have not always achieved their maximum potential, the Weimar Independent School District is committed to provide services to help and encourage these students. We strive to develop within the individual a desire for excellence and a sense of individual responsibility to self and society.

State Definition of Gifted and Talented

“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.

Local Definition of Gifted and Talented

Academically gifted children are defined as children who excel markedly, or have the potential to excel markedly, an ability to think, reason, judge, invent or create. Gifted children will be provided services in the four core subject area: English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and creativity.

Screening and Selection Committee

The Weimar Independent School District shall have a Screening, Selection, and Exit Committee for gifted and talented students. The Screening, Selection and Exit Committee shall be made up of at least three local district educators who have received training in the nature and needs of gifted students. The committee’s responsibility shall be the ongoing selection and screening of students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment in the required areas of English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and creativity.

G/T Program

During the first semester referred students will be assessed for placement in the district’s gifted and talented program using criteria established for grades K-12.

Entry Policy for Grade K-12

I. Referral

Students may be referred for the gifted and talented program during an established time in the month of **October**. Referrals may be made by, but are not limited to, any of the following persons who are familiar with the students’ abilities, potential, performance, and past records:

- Teachers who have or have had the student in class
- Parents who nominate their own child or another child
- Professionals who have relevant data to contribute on a particular student
- Students who nominate themselves
- Community Members

II. Assessment

Assessment is conducted by the G.T. Coordinator, in conjunction with the campus **principal**. Criteria to identify gifted and talented students shall ensure the fair assessment of students with special needs, such as the culturally different, the economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities.

Identification is based upon data from a minimum of five sources that include both **quantitative** and **qualitative** measures. These may include, but are not limited to the following criteria:

- Achievement Tests
- Creativity Tests
- School Ability Tests
- Parent Inventories
- Teacher Checklists

An **assessment** timeline is attached. This timeline is designated for the first semester of the current school year. Prior to **assessment**, parents will be informed of the nomination and screening process through the newspaper and notes sent home from school. Written permission of parents will be secured before testing begins.

III. Selection

Following completion and **assessment** procedures, selection of students will be made by the **District GT Committee**. Student's assessment will be scored and plotted on a GT profile to help determine eligibility. The committee will look at the whole child and consider teacher/parent input, as well as, all testing information. **The educational need for GT services will be the primary consideration.** The committee will then notify, in writing, parents of students meeting criteria for placement into the program. Participation in any program or service offered for gifted and talented students is voluntary on the part of the student and requires written permission of their parents or legal guardians.

IV. Appeals

When questions arise as to the **District GT Committee's** decision and/or if more information is requested by the parents, the following procedure is recommended:

Step 1-Arrange a conference with the principal and one or more member of the **District GT Committee**.

Step 2-Arrange a conference with the Superintendent and one or more member of the **District GT Committee**.

Step 3-Appeal to the School Board

The appeal should be accompanied by a written statement of concern about the program placement. The written statement must be given to the Superintendent five (5) days prior to the school board meeting.

Program Design

Students will work independently, with other gifted and talented students, and with all other classmates to create high quality, cutting edge projects. G/T services will be provided to students in grades K-12 in the following ways:

Students in grades K-8 will be served through class differentiation, as well as, the Texas Performance Standards Project curriculum provided through a pull out class.

Students in grades 9-12 will be served by GT trained teachers through dual credit and honors classes in the four core areas.

Core area teachers in each grade level will have the GT 30 hour mandated training, as well as, their subsequent 6 hour annual update training.

Exit Policy

Requiring a student to exit from the gifted and talented program is a serious consideration. Care and sensitivity should guide educators and parents when they are considering the exiting of a student from the gifted and talented program.

Students' progress is monitored. The **District GT Committee** will make all final decisions regarding exiting of students from the program for educational, psychological and personal reasons after consultation with both student and parents. **A furlough will be used to help the student as deemed necessary.** A student shall be removed from the program when the selection committee determines it is in the student's best interest. Such decisions are based on any or all of the following data:

- Teacher/Counselor recommendations based on observation and documentation of student behavior, performance, and products
- Parent requests for withdrawal from the program or services
- Student requests for withdrawal from the program or services with parental permission

Prior to a formal exit from the program, The Notification of Exit Form must be on file. A student who has exited from the program may be re-nominated and re-assessed for placement in the program the following school year.

Transfer Policy

New K-12 students entering Weimar I.S.D. may be accepted in to the district's talent pool/gifted and talented program. **Records from sending school will be requested and considered.**

Furlough Policy

Students who are unable to maintain satisfactory performance within the structure of the gifted and talented program may be placed on furlough by the selection committee. The purpose of such a furlough is to provide the student an opportunity to attain performance goals established by the **District GT Committee**.

A furlough may also be granted at the request of the student and/or parent. The student and/or parent must complete a Furlough Request Form and file it with the G.T. Coordinator.

Students may be furloughed for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the district committee, but not to exceed one year. At the end of the furlough, the student's progress shall be re-assessed, and the student may re-enter the gifted program, be exited from the program, or placed on another furlough.

Community Awareness

Weimar. I. S. D. is committed to encouraging and supporting parental and community involvement in education. The district shall ensure that information about the gifted and talented program is available to the parents and community members. Parents and community members will have opportunities to develop an understanding of and support for the gifted and talented program through newspaper articles, newsletters, notes from school, the district web-page, and parent/community meetings.

In addition, the gifted and talented program shall be evaluated annually and evaluation information shall be shared with school board members, administrators, teachers, counselors, students in the program, parents, and the community in general.