



De Leon ISD
Parent Awareness of
Gifted and Talented Program
2022-2023



Definition of a Gifted Child

“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 capacity in an intellectual, creativity, or artistic area, possesses an unusual capacity for leadership, or excels in a specific academic field.

TEC 28.121

Characteristics of Gifted Students

High Achiever

- * Knows the answers
- * Learns with ease
- * Completes assignment
- * Enjoys school
- * Absorbs information
- * Good memorizer
- * Pleased with own learning

Gifted Learner

- * Asks the questions
- * Already knows
- * Initiates projects
- * Enjoys learning
- * Manipulates information
- * Good guesser
- * Is highly self-critical

Program Design and Services

De Leon Elementary: students in the Gifted and Talented program are served in a pull-out program. The gifted students attend the Gifted and Talented program along with a small group of other high-achieving students five days a week. One day per week the GT students will meet with the teacher and will be utilizing *The Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP)* which comprises a set of performance standards, curricula, and assessments for differentiating instruction and deepening academic learning. TPSP enhances gifted/talented (G/T) programs from kindergarten through high school. This program is taught by a teacher who has received thirty hours of training in gifted education, and a yearly six-hour update.

Program Design and Services

Perkins Middle School: students in the Gifted and Talented program are served in a pull-out program for forty-five minutes per week. The students in grades 6-8 participate in several projects throughout the year as a group. Middle School will be utilizing *The Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP)* which comprises a set of performance standards, curricula, and assessments for differentiating instruction and deepening academic learning. TPSP enhances gifted/talented (G/T) programs from kindergarten through high school. This program is taught by a teacher who has received thirty hours of training in gifted education, and a yearly six-hour update.

Program Design and Services

De Leon High School: students in the Gifted and Talented program are served in a pull-out program for roughly forty-five minutes each week. The G.T. students meet once a week on Fridays during fourth period. Students are allowed two absences each semester, however, if they exceed those absences because they are unable to attend the designated time the student is required to find an alternative time to come in during the week fourth period or during tutorials from 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. to make up the time. Throughout the duration of the year, students will engage in both an individualized project made up of four different components as well as breakout days where they will complete tasks in groups. This program is taught by a teacher who has received thirty hours of training in gifted education, and a yearly six-hour update.

Currently, the DHS G.T. class is involved in a year-long project known as the *Pursuit of Passions Project*. Students select a topic they are passionate about and will work on the four different components of the project throughout the year. They will create a PowerPoint introducing why they choose the topic they are passionate about, why it is important to know about it, and how it has impacted both history and modern-day society. They will then create a tri-fold board with the history of the topic, important people to that topic, and fun facts about the topic. From there, they are going to create a visual aid depicting their topic in some form or fashion and then write a handout explaining their visual aid. They will have five G.T. class periods to complete each portion of the project. After each section, in the following class meeting, they will do a fun activity as a reward like cooking, a Bob Ross Painting, playing chess, etc. From there in May, the plan is to have an exposition in the De Leon High School Auditorium where the G.T. class presents their *Pursuit of Passions Project* to the School Board, their parents, and other members of the community who want to come. Then, the people in attendance will go around the Auditorium science fair style to look at the students' tri-fold boards and see the students' visual aids. The goal is to make sure the students are the experts on their topic and can answer any questions members of the public might have about it. Finally, everyone in the class who successfully completes their *Pursuit of Passions Project* will be able to attend the end-of-year field trip.

Referral Period

Parents, teachers, and community members may refer a student in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade for Gifted and Talented testing by filling out a referral form. The forms can be filled out online on the district website. The form can also be picked up at the office of the campus the student attends.

Students in grades K-12 may be referred for the gifted and talented program at any time. If a referral form is received for a student after the assessment period, the form will be kept on file, and the student will be assessed the following school year during the assessment period.

Assessment Process

Once a referral form has been received for a student, a letter of parental permission to test for academic giftedness is sent home. Once parental approval is obtained, the students will begin the assessment process. Testing for the Gifted and Talented program is done at the end of January and beginning of February each year. Students are assessed with quantitative and qualitative assessments such as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, NNAT, Torrance Test of Creativity, and parent and teacher behavioral checklists.

Determination of Need

A selection committee including at least one educator who has completed thirty hours of gifted and talented training, and are current with an annual six hour update, a campus administrator, and a regular education teacher who also has thirty hours of gifted and talented training, and are current with an annual six hour update . The committee will review the data gathered during the assessment process, and recommend placement for students whose data meets the criteria for placement in the Gifted and Talented program. Decisions are based on multiple pieces of quantitative and qualitative data gathered during the assessment period.

Parent Notification

Once the selection committee has determined which students met the criteria for placement in the Gifted and Talented program, written notification will be sent out to the parents of all the students that participated in the GT assessments. The notification will tell the parents whether or not their child qualified for placement in the Gifted and Talented program.

If the student qualifies for the program, parental approval or denial of their child in the Gifted and Talented program must be obtained before services begin.

Parents are notified in the language spoken in the home.

Student Served

Once parental approval for placement in the Gifted and Talented program has been obtained, the student will immediately begin being served in the Gifted and Talented program on their campus.

For more information related to Gifted and Talented, visit the De Leon ISD Website.

<https://www.deleonisd.net/page/disd.parents>

Gifted and Talented Program Contact Information

Director of Federal and Special Programs
Liesa Nowlin
lnowlin@deleonisd.net

District GT Coordinator/Elem. GT Teacher
Deanna Downs
ddowns@deleonisd.net

Middle School GT Teacher
Tori Faulkner
tfaulkner@deleonisd.net

High School GT Teacher
Sierra Dyson
sdyson@deleonisd.net