



Gladewater Independent School District

Gifted and Talented Handbook 2020-2021

District Mission statement

The administrators, teachers, and staff of Gladewater ISD, in partnership with students, parents, and community members, are dedicated to helping each student prepare for life-long learning and effective citizenship.

Gladewater ISD and its Career and Technology Education Program do not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color age or national origin in its educational programs, or employment as required by Title IX, section 504 or Title VI.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Gifted and Talented Program is to provide a quality program designed for gifted students who will demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication as evidence 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.

Referral

Referring for the gifted and talented program is an on-going process. Students in grades K-12, may be referred throughout the year by a teacher, parent, counselor, administrator, peer, community member, or through self-nomination. Information will be disseminated to all parents through a posting each school year informing them about the referral / identification process. Forms may be obtained from the office of each individual campus. Upon completion, all forms should be returned to the campus counselor and sent to the district's GT teacher. Particular consideration should be given to students who might otherwise be overlooked, such as members of minority groups, culturally different students, economically disadvantaged students, and handicapped students. All students are eligible for a referral.

Identification

Upon receipt of a referral form, the district's GT teacher will conduct testing procedures during the spring semester. Identification measures include, but are not limited to:

- Ability test, The COGAT
- Teacher referral checklist
- Parent observation checklist
- Student product or performance
- Reading inventory

After all data is collected, the district's GT teacher will complete the student nominee's profile and present information to the campus selection committee for placement.

The campus selection committee will make the final selection of gifted and talented students. All assessments and information concerning each nominated student will be kept in a permanent file. Parents will be notified in writing of the decision made by the campus selection committee. Written permission shall be obtained from the parent before placing a student in a gifted and talented program.

Furloughs

The selection committee may place students who are unable to maintain satisfactory performance within the structure of the gifted and talented program on furlough. Furloughs allow for students to have a leave of absence from the gifted and talented program services for specific reasons and for a certain amount of time without being exited. A furlough provides the student with an opportunity to obtain performance goals established by the selection committee. The committee determines the length of a furlough with input from the parent. A furlough will not exceed two semesters in length. At the end of the furlough, the student's progress shall be reassessed and the student may re-enter the gifted program, be removed from the program, or be placed on another furlough not to exceed two semesters. This decision will be based on the student's needs.

Reasons for placing a GT student on a furlough:

- ❑ Student fails to maintain satisfactory performance in the regular and or gifted classroom, indicated by not passing core classes (Math, Science, Social Studies, and English/ELAR).
- ❑ Student fails any grade level state-mandated tests. He/She will be placed on furlough for one year until passing the next year's grade level state-mandated tests.
- ❑ Student chooses not to participate in the level of service offered to GT students - GT pull out and/or Advanced courses.

Elementary students who are furloughed from the GT program will not attend pullout classes.

Reassessment

Reassessment of gifted talented students is based on performance in the program and if reassessment occurs at all, it is no more than once in elementary grades and once in middle school grades to determine the appropriateness of program services. The campus selection committee will conduct the reassessment. If testing is required, the necessary assessments will be conducted with written parental approval. Parents will be included in the discussion of program appropriateness and planning appropriate program recommendations for the student.

Exit

Exiting students from gifted and talented program services is based on multiple criteria including student performance in the program. If the student should not fulfill the requirements for the designated gifted and talented classes, the campus selection committee will meet with the student and parent and determine if the student should be exited from the program. (See area under furloughs)

Transfer

Policy related to transfer students ensures students are properly assessed and appropriately placed in a timely manner. The district's GT teacher will review records of students transferring into the district and make a recommendation to the campus selection committee.

Transfer Students will be properly assessed and appropriately placed within six weeks of enrollment in the district. The assessment may be requested from the sending district as part of the student's records.

Appeals

The appeals process allows parents, students, and educators to appeal decisions made by the campus selection committee. Please refer to the regular appeals process located in the student handbook.

Parental and Community Involvement

Annual notification shall be given to ensure information about the district's gifted and talented program is available to parents and community members and that they have an opportunity to develop an understanding of and support for the program.

Professional Development

Prior to assignment in the program, teachers who provide instruction and services that are a part of the program for gifted students will be required to receive a minimum of 30 clock hours of professional development that include nature and needs of gifted and talented students, assessing students needs, and curriculum and instruction for gifted students. Teachers will receive a minimum of six hours annually in advanced professional development in gifted education.

Program Evolution

Formative and summative assessment will be used annually in evaluating the gifted and talented program. The information will be shared with board members, administrators, teachers, students, and the community, will be used to improve the overall effectiveness of the program as determined by the campus and district Improvement plan.

Description of GT Program Services

High School--grades 9-12

Gifted and talented students will be offered advanced and dual credit classes in the following areas: English, math, science, social studies. Advanced and Dual Credit classes will offer differentiation that includes products and performances of professional quality as part of the program services.

Middle School--grades 6-8

Gifted and talented middle school students will participate in one or more advanced classes that offer differentiated instruction in the core areas of language arts, math, science and social studies. Students will participate in competitions such as Region VII's Model UN and Robotics.

Intermediate--grades 2-5

Gifted and talented students in grades 2-5 will participate in a class that offers differentiated instruction in the core areas of language arts, math, science, and social studies and through a pullout program. The pull out program provides experience with STEM projects, robotics, as well as competitions/showcases at RegionVII, such as Imagination Fair and Innovative Inventions.

Primary—grades K-1

All kindergarten students will be screened and served by March 1st of the Kindergarten year. Gifted and talented students in grade 1 and identified Kindergarten students will participate in a class that offers differentiated instruction in the core areas of language arts, math, science, and social studies through a pullout program. The pull out program provides experience with STEM projects as well as Region VII's Imagination Fair.



Gladewater Independent School District

Gifted and Talented Program -- Parent Information Letter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Gladewater ISD is committed to providing a quality education for all students. According to Texas law, a parent has the right to refer his/her child for consideration in the gifted and talented program. Recognizing that approximately 5% of students have specific needs that may not always be addressed in the regular classroom, GISD provides special gifted education services for students who made the specified criteria and are selected by the campus selection committee. The criteria may include performance on ability tests, reading test, reading inventory, and or student performance on specific products, as well as a parent observation checklist and a teacher observation checklist.

Gifted and talented students usually display some of the characteristics listed below:

- Intellectually curious, innovative and playful with ideas.
- Enjoy the challenge and involvement of intellectual and creative tasks.
- Is an independent thinker and seeks to act independently.
- Reads widely and intensively in areas of special interest.
- Has an unusual ability to memorize.
- Generates many ideas and multiple solutions to problems.
- Has the capacity for extraordinary leadership and tends to assume leadership responsibilities.
- Demonstrates richness of imagery in informal language and brainstorming.
- Has a keen and sometimes unique sense of humor.
- Prefers complex tasks and processes information in complex ways.
- Acquires basic skills rapidly and with minimum practice.
- Explores wide-ranging and special interests not usually associated with children of the same age and relates well to peers and adults who have similar interests.

If you wish to submit your child's name for screening for the gifted and talented program you may pick up a form in the school office anytime. Students referred by the end of February will be screened and identified by the campus selection committee. Parents will be notified in writing of the committee's decision no later than the last day of school. A folder containing gifted and talented student information will be kept for each student referred for the gifted and talented program. This folder will follow the student to each GISD campus. If you have further questions please contact the campus counselor or the district's gifted and talented teacher, Mrs. Angie Townsend, at TownsendA@gladewaterisd.com.



Gladewater ISD Gifted/Talented Services Referral Form

I, _____, as parent/guardian/ teacher/community
(name of person referring) (Please circle)

member, would like to refer _____ for the Gifted/Talented
(Print student's name)

screening and assessment process. I believe this child has an extraordinarily high level of intellectual or academic ability and that his/her educational needs can best be met by participation in Gifted/Talented Services. I understand the school district will make every effort to determine the best possible educational services based on the student's educational needs. This child is Currently in grade _____.

_____ Yes, I give permission for diagnostic testing.

_____ No, I do not give permission for diagnostic testing.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE

Teacher name: _____

Student name: _____

Teacher Referral Checklist

Communication Characteristics	Yes	No
Uses language to teach others		
Uses non-verbal communication (body language)		
Demonstrates large vocabulary for age or grade level		
Thinking Characteristics		
Makes use of or extends what has been taught		
Understands cause and effect relationships		
Sees things in more than one way		
Ability to analyze information		
Motivational Characteristics		
Consistently ask questions (like why?)		
Displays good memory skills		
Prefers to do things their own way		
Pursues individual interests over group		
Persistent in task completion		
Learning Characteristics		
Has advanced understanding of mathematical relationships		

Categorizes objects by more than one attribute/characteristic		
Demonstrates expertise in an area (name area: _____)		
Reads a great deal on their own		
Retains and uses information		
Creative Characteristics		
High risk taker, does not fear being different		
Exceptional musical ability		
Clever use of dimension, angle and perspective in art		
Creates multiple options to complete task or solve problems		
Offers unusual/unique responses		
Likes to brainstorm		
Freely elaborates without prompting in written format		
Personality Characteristics		
Displays keen sense of humor		
Uses imaginative figures of speech such as puns and analogies		
Leadership Characteristics		
Functions as a leader		
Shows unique awareness of the needs of others		
Assumes mature or adult responsibility		

Total number marked **yes** _____ Total number marked **no** _____

Gladewater ISD Parent observation checklist

Child's Name _____ Birth date _____

Age _____ Sex _____ Grade _____

School _____ Teacher's name _____

In order to assist the school in providing an educational program to meet the needs of your child, please complete the following inventory. After completing this inventory, place it in a sealed envelope and have your child return it to his or her teacher. Thank you.

Check the following items as each best describes your child. Each time you mark "a great deal" please indicate in the space provided examples of how your child demonstrates this behavior.

	Very little	Some	A great deal
1. Is curious, asks many questions			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
2. Persists in examining and exploring his/her environment			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
3. Is independent			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
4. Has a great imagination			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
5. Is full of ideas and has conversational fluency			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
6. Is bored with routine tasks			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
7. Can occupy time usefully			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
8. Pursues independent interests			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
9. Interested in a wide range of things			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
10. Likes school			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
11. Has lots of ideas to share			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
12. Likes to pretend			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
13. Likes to have his/her ideas heard at all costs, may interrupt persistently.			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
14. Above average coordination and ability in organized games.			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
15. Has a keen sense of humor			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
16. Reads intensively in areas of special interest.			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
17. Can create with commonplace materials.			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
18. Seems to enjoy working alone			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
19. Is a leader			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
20. High self expectations, perfectionist			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
21. Searches for new ways to do familiar tasks.			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
22. Wants to know how things work			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
23. Aware of problems others do not see			

	Very little	Some	A great deal
24. Is curious, asks many questions			



Gladewater ISD G/T Furlough Policy

A furlough, or temporary "leave of absence," from receiving Gifted/Talented (G/T) services is designed to meet the individual needs of an identified student. Anyone may request a furlough: parent/guardian, student, teacher, or administrator. A furlough request form can be obtained from the counselor's office at the campus where the identified child is receiving services.

Please return the furlough request to the district's GT teacher, Angie Townsend. The principal will present the furlough request to the members of the G/T committee for consideration. A student may be furloughed for a period of time deemed appropriate by the selection committee. Furloughs are temporary and will not be longer than one year.

At the end of the furlough, the student's progress shall be reassessed, and the student may begin receiving G/T services, exited from services, or be placed on another furlough. Furloughs can be granted for a variety of extenuating circumstances such as: family problems, illness, emotional problems, or anything that would inhibit a child's performance while receiving G/T services. Furloughs will not be used as a disciplinary tool.



Gladewater ISD G/T Furlough Referral Form

Date: _____ Requested by: _____

Check here if you have read and understand the **Gladewater ISD** Furlough policy.

Requested for (student's name): _____

Date: _____ Length of time requested: _____

Reason(s) for request: _____

Committee Decision

_____ Furlough granted _____ Furlough denied

Date: _____ Length of time granted: _____

Comments: _____

Committee Members

G/T Coordinator/Teacher

Teacher

Principal/Counselor

Other (specify)



**Gladewater ISD
Exit Committee Report**

Date: _____ Student name: _____

Campus: _____ Grade level: _____

Person initiating request: _____

List previous classroom/campus interventions for student:

Committee Decision

____ Exit granted ____ Exit denied ____ Additional Intervention(s)

Rationale for exit or denial:

Committee Members

Student

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Teacher(s)

Principal/Counselor

GT teacher

Other (specify)



**Gladewater ISD
Gifted and Talented Education Identification
Appeal of Decision**

Please complete the form and return to the campus principal. Place in the student's cumulative folder.

Name of student _____ Campus _____

Grade _____ Age _____ Date of request for appeal _____

Request submitted by _____

Date of conference with Principal _____

The campus selection committee is charged with the responsibility of implementing the district selection procedure designed to recognize students who possess exceptional gifts and talents which require special learning opportunities in order to be fully developed. A parent or legal guardian may appeal any final decision made by the campus selection committee regarding selection for or removal from the campus gifted program. Upon receipt of this request, the principal will schedule a meeting of the campus selection committee. A written decision based on the assessment will be rendered.

Please assist the committee by providing the following information regarding your child:

1. What information is necessary for reconsideration when reviewing your child's folder?

2. Describe the exceptional academic talents of your child that may require special learning opportunities beyond those provided in the regular curriculum in order to be fully developed.

Gladewater ISD GT Identification Profile

(Grades K-1)

Student name _____ Date _____

Student ID _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Ability Index					
COGAT Stanine Scores	1-5	6	7	8	9
Verbal _____					
Quantitative _____					
Nonverbal _____					
	0-14		15-19	20-24	25-30
Teacher referral checklist					
Parent observation checklist					
Achievement Tests	below		on	above level	
Math screener					
Fountas and Pinnell level					
Other data considered	below		on	above leve	
Identified as Gifted	Yes	No			
Date to begin services:					
Committee signatures:					

Gladewater ISD GT Identification Profile

(Grades 2-12)

Student name _____ Date _____

Student ID _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Ability Index						
COGAT Stanine Scores	1-5	6	7	8	9	
Verbal _____						
Quantitative _____						
Nonverbal _____						
	0-14		15-19	20-24	25-30	
Teacher referral checklist						
Parent observation checklist						
Achievement Tests	below		on	above level		
Istation Reading						
Istation Math						
	below		on	above leve		
DRA						
Star READING screener						
Star MATH screener						
Identified as Gifted	Yes	No				
Date to begin services:						
Committee signatures:						



Gladewater ISD

Public Announcement for G/T Referral

Gladewater ISD is beginning the referral process for Gifted and Talented (G/T) services for the 2021–2022 school year. We are committed to providing challenging learning experiences for students with exceptional intellectual and creative thinking abilities. Anyone wishing to refer a student attending **Gladewater ISD** in kindergarten through 12th grade can pick up or request a copy of the referral form at their school office after January 20, 2021. This form must be returned to the school by February 20, 2021. Those unable to go by the school office should call and request a form to be sent to them.

