



Department of Gifted & Talented and Advanced Academics

2020 Fall Guide

Department Mission

Our mission is to provide **access** to programming for gifted and talented students that allows them to maximize their potential while providing **opportunities** for any student who wants to participate in enhanced and accelerated educational programs.

To support our goal, the department will **advocate** for and **collaborate** with stakeholders to build district and community capacity regarding gifted and talented and advanced academics programming.



GT Programming: Who We Serve

A gifted/talented student is 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. (Texas Education Code [§29.121](#))



GT Identification and Assessment

- Students referred for GT programming during the open referral periods (fall, kindergarten, and spring)
- Parents or legal guardians submit signed permission-to-test form.
- Students take assessments
- Campus or district GT committees review data from assessments, teachers, and families.
- Students accepted, denied, or placed on monitored status.



Transfer Information

Board policy EHBB (Local) on out-of-district transfers:

When a student identified as gifted by a previous school district enrolls in the District, the selection committee shall review the student's records and conduct assessment procedures when necessary to determine if placement in the District's program for gifted and talented students is appropriate.

Out-of-District Transfer Process:

- (1) Submit transfer process online
- (2) Submit paperwork to Director of Advanced Academics
- (3) District committee reviews records and render decision (full-placement, monitored, or re-test)
- (4) Communication sent to campus GT lead (interventionist) and families

If a student resides in the district, a parent/legal guardian will only need to submit the transfer request form to begin the process.



Fall 2020 Open Referrals

■ Thursday, August 20, 2020 – Friday, September 18, 2020

■ Link: <https://bit.ly/fallgtreferral>



DeSoto ISD GT Service Model (2020 – 2021)

- Interventionists (and the Advanced Academics Specialist at KJTMA) will serve as primary campus support for GT programming
- GT Students will receive services through cluster grouping with differentiation
- GT Students will have personalized advanced learning and support (PALS) plans
- GT Students will have the opportunity to complete an independent research project
- GT Students will have the opportunity to participate in academic enrichment activities: (Spelling Bee, UIL A+ Academics)
- Additional support will vary by campus



Personalized Advanced Learning and Support Plans (PALS)

- Representatives from the Department of GT and Advanced Academics will contact families to set appointments for PALS plans.
- During PALS plans meetings, families will have the opportunity to discuss student expectations for the school year.
- Copies of the PALS plan will be shared with teachers, counselors, and others who support learning.
- PALS plans are for guidance and information only; they are not legally-binding documents.
- PALS Plans Meetings begin Monday, August 24, 2020.





Questions & Answers

