

# Austin ISD GT Parent Manual

**12/15/2023**

This document is provided as a linear overview of the Gifted and Talented services provided by Austin ISD and is in compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220), August 7, 1998, a federal law mandating that all electronic and information technology developed, procured, maintained, or used to be accessible to people with disabilities. All of the content is available online at <https://www.austinisd.org/advanced-academics>. Updates to this document are made annually. Updates to the online content are made in real-time.

## **Table of Contents**

[GT Referral and Screening Process](#)

[GT Services](#)

[GT Transfers](#)

[GT Resources](#)

[Contact Austin ISD Advanced Academics](#)

## **GT Referral and Screening Process**

All schools offer Gifted and Talented screening in grades K-12 based on referrals submitted to the Campus GT Advocate.

Add a section on 2nd grade screener here?

Students may be identified in one or more of the following areas:

- GT STEM (science and mathematics),
- GT Humanities (language arts and social studies),
- Talent Explore STEM (science and mathematics), or
- Talent Explore Humanities (language arts and social studies).

Qualitative and quantitative measures are collected. Qualitative measures include a Parent Observation Form, Teacher Observation Form, **and a student work sample completed at school**. The quantitative measure is a standardized assessment.

The Parent Observation Form must be completed and signed to provide permission for the student to complete the screening process. The form must be submitted to the Campus GT Advocate during the Student GT Referral Window.

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Arabic](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)

### **Campus GT Decision-making Committee**

After all of the screening components have been collected, the Campus GT Decision-making Committee will meet and determine if the student demonstrates a need for GT services or the Talent Explore program, or if there is insufficient evidence for identification. The Parent/guardian will receive written communication regarding the outcome of the GT screening process.

To discuss the decision of the Campus GT Decision-making Committee, contact the Campus GT Advocate. To appeal the decision of the Campus GT Decision-making Committee, please request the appeal paperwork from the Campus GT Advocate.

## **GT Services**

### **Elementary GT Services**

Elementary GT services include instruction by a teacher with the appropriate GT Foundations training within a cluster grouping model (small group of identified GT students within the general education classroom) which allows opportunities for curricular tasks that include greater depth, complexity, and pacing while working independently, with other GT students, and with students not identified.

Parents/guardians of identified GT students at the elementary level will receive either a GT Student Services Summary each semester completed by the teacher or another form of documentation of the academic options provided.

### **Secondary GT Services**

Acceleration is an educational intervention that moves students through an educational program at a younger than typical age or faster than usual rate.

Secondary GT services include instruction by a teacher with the appropriate GT Foundations training and any required specialized training in the following options:

- Honors
- Advanced Courses
- Advanced Placement
- Magnet (requires admission to magnet)
- International Baccalaureate (requires admission to IB)
- Dual Credit (requires passing TSI score)
- OnRamps (requires passing TSI score)
- Advanced-level CTE courses

Acceleration provides GT students with a choice of concentrating on their strengths or interests through the selection of at least one course in the GT interdisciplinary strands of STEM and/or Humanities for which they are identified each school year. Academic options provided vary based on campus decisions.

## GT Transfers

### Transferring GT status within Austin ISD

1. Austin ISD students identified as GT or Talent Explore will remain in the program even if they change schools within the district.
2. No additional documentation or action needed.

### Returning to Austin ISD after leaving the district

1. The parent/guardian must contact the front office of the school to request the contact information for the campus GT Advocate to have the student reinstated by the district.
2. Additional documentation may be required.

### Requesting GT status in Austin ISD from out-of-district

1. Students must be enrolled in Austin ISD. This process is only available to students identified as GT in school outside of Austin ISD.
2. Parents/guardians will complete the **Out-of-District Transfer Review Form**.
3. The campus will request the required student records that document previous GT identification before the review can begin.
4. The student's GT placement decision will be sent to the parent and campus GT Avocate via email after the review of student records is completed.

## GT Resources

These resources are designed for parents/guardians and school staff.

**(Add updated resources here)**

Austin ISD has purchased a site license for the following SENG webinars. Use access code **CP2017** to view webinars.

- [Is It a Gift or a Curse? What It Means to Be an Outlier... and What to Do about It!](#)
- [Mindfulness: Fostering the Emotional Growth of Children with Advanced Abilities](#)
- [Building Resilience in Gifted Children: Fostering a Sense of Autonomy and Confidence](#)
- [Stress, Anxiety and Gifted: Coping with Everyday Life](#)
- [Strategies for Dealing with Emotional Overexcitabilities](#)

## Contact Austin ISD Advanced Academics

### **Elizabeth Severance**

Director of Advanced Academics

Phone:

Email:

### **Viviana Alvarado**

Administrative Assistant III

Phone: 512-414-9986

Email:

### **Delaine Canales**

Data Processor

Phone: 512-414-0139

Email: [delaine.canales@austinisd.org](mailto:delaine.canales@austinisd.org)

### **Blake Haygood**

Gifted Education Coordinator

Phone:

Email:

### **Victoria Kelly**

Secondary GT/Advanced Academics Coordinator

Phone: 512-414-2031

Email: [victoria.kelly@austinisd.org](mailto:victoria.kelly@austinisd.org)