

# LISD Secondary Gifted/Talented (G/T) Services

## Vision

Empowering Gifted/Talented students to explore their passions and potential, embrace their abilities and unique giftedness, and thrive in a future they create.

## Mission

We inclusively identify, engage, build relationships and ignite a desire for learning through empowering Gifted/Talented students to explore their passions while meeting their unique social-emotional and educational needs every day.

## WE believe that Gifted/Talented Students...

- Benefit from shared family, community, and school partnerships in developing individualized services.
- Possess unique social-emotional and educational needs that must be addressed for overall success.
- Deserve the opportunity to explore their unique passions and capabilities with like-minded peers
- Need families, educators, and community members to have on-going learning equipping them to support the whole child.
- Value and need opportunities to work with like-minded peers.
- Are present in all populations and cultures.
- Require flexibility in systems and services.



# GIFTED AND TALENTED

## Middle School G/T Services

As students transition from elementary to middle school, identified G/T students are served through academic core courses, specifically G/T Science and G/T English Language Arts & Reading (ELA) commonly referred to as LEAP.

Our designated G/T courses are designed with the needs of gifted learners and are highly recommended due to the differentiated curriculum, the utilization of diverse instructional strategies, and specialized training requirements for the teachers. Students are encouraged to select courses that are the best fit for their abilities, passions, and interests.

### G/T Course Offerings:

- In G/T English Language Arts & Reading (LEAP), a specialized thematic curriculum is designed with G/T learners in mind that incorporates grade level learning standards, G/T Capacities, Kaplan's Depth and Complexity. and a focus on Humanities forming the foundation of our course framework.
- In G/T Science, the curriculum incorporates grade level standards, increased pacing, curriculum compacting and enrichment to meet the needs of gifted learners.
- Identified students will be clustered (groups of 5 or more) automatically within their Pre-Advanced Placement Mathematics classes.

If a dedicated G/T courses does not meet minimum enrollment requirements, the G/T students will be clustered in the corresponding Pre-AP course offering.

### Sixth Grade Courses

G/T ELAR LEAP  
G/T Science  
Pre-AP Mathematics (Clustered)

### Seventh Grade Courses

G/T ELAR LEAP  
G/T Science  
Pre-AP Mathematics (Clustered)

### Eighth Grade Courses

G/T ELAR LEAP  
G/T Science  
Pre-AP Mathematics (Clustered)

## Student Identification & Assessment for G/T Services

Identification of students for G/T services is ongoing throughout six through twelve. Students can be referred for G/T testing by parents, teachers, counselors, or by self-referral. Multiple measures are utilized to qualify for G/T services including ability testing, achievement testing, parent and teacher input, and student work samples. Data collected is reviewed through a district selection process to determine the need for gifted services for each student.

The selection process begins with the digital submission of a referral in Skyward Family Access. Parents will also complete the Permission to Test Form and Parent Survey Form in this online format. Families without internet access may contact the campus counseling office for assistance. [Parent/Student Referral Guidelines](#)

All LISD sixth grade students also participate in a diagnostic screening to determine need for gifted services. The screener assists in measuring students' non-verbal abilities and uses progressive matrices to allow for culturally neutral evaluation of students' nonverbal reasoning and general problem-solving ability, regardless of the language, education, culture, or socioeconomic background.

Students who have been previously identified as gifted learners in another district should submit qualifying documents to the campus. Once district G/T office personnel confirm eligibility, G/T service options will be communicated and implemented. If eligibility cannot be confirmed, retesting will be necessary.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *As a formally identified G/T student, will I automatically be enrolled in the G/T classes?*

No, you have the choice regarding the courses you select. However, we highly recommend the designated courses for our gifted learners.

### *What should I consider when choosing whether to enroll in the G/T, Pre-AP, or on-level courses?*

The G/T courses are designed for formally identified gifted students with a passion and interest in the subject with the goal of further developing the capacities of self-awareness, problem solving and critical thinking through inquiry-based instruction. Consider your level of interest and strength in the subject. The Pre-AP classes are open to any student who selects to challenge themselves. Students will need to take a minimum of **one** G/T or Pre-AP course to maintain their G/T status.

### *Am I allowed to select one G/T course but not the other?*

Yes, we do highly recommend that G/T students enroll in ELA LEAP at a minimum because the specialized curriculum is designed to meet the unique academic and personal needs of G/T learners. However, it is not a requirement to participate in both courses.

### *Who will be teaching the G/T courses?*

The selection of the teacher for each G/T course offered is the decision of the campus principal. Any teacher selected to teach G/T courses will complete the district required Initial G/T Series training and annual updates.

## Additional Resources and Contact Information

For additional LISD G/T program and services questions, please contact Sharon Nobis, Secondary Gifted and Talented Administrator, [NobisS@lisd.net](mailto:NobisS@lisd.net) or 469-948-8122.