

## GT Program Identification Procedures

The mind is not a vessel to be filled; it is a fire to be kindled. – Plutarch

---

According to the Arkansas Department of Education the following definition shall guide districts in providing services and opportunities for students identified as gifted and talented:

*Gifted and talented children and youth are those of high potential or ability whose learning characteristics and educational needs require qualitatively differentiated educational experiences and/or services.*

*Possession of these talents and gifts, or the potential for their development, will be evidenced through an interaction of above average intellectual ability, task commitment and /or motivation, and creative ability.*

(<http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/learning-services/gifted-and-talented-and-advanced-placement>)

The process used in the identification of students for participation in the Gifted and Talented Program consists of three steps:

- Referral
- Screening
- Selection

Teachers, parents, or others familiar with the student may make a referral for testing at any time.

The screening process consists of compiling data on those students nominated for the program. Written parental permission must be given before this step can be completed.

Evaluation may include measures of:

- Achievement: These measures assess a student's skill development in academic content areas. They measure the level of academic skill attainment or educational achievement.
- Perceptive reasoning: These measures assess a person's present ability to perceive and think clearly, irrespective of past experiences or present ability for verbal communication.
- Creativity: These measures determine scores for the four divergent thinking factors of fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration.
- Intelligence: measures of intelligence assess the student's capabilities for learning (strengths and weaknesses).
- Other measures may be needed to provide additional relevant information to be used in making placement decisions.

In the selection process, the identification committee will consider each student tested for the program. The committee will consist of at least five members, which will include the GT Coordinator, administrators, counselors, and classroom teachers.

Committee decisions are “blind” in that members of the committee do not know the identity of the students being considered. Selections will be made on the perceived need for services based on an analysis of each student’s test scores and other relevant data. Decisions will be made without discrimination as to sex, race, color, creed, religion, physical or mental handicaps, or language.

Parents will be notified of the committee decision, regardless of whether a student has been placed or not, by mail. Written permission must be given in order for a child to participate in the GT program.

Parents who wish to appeal a placement may do so using the following procedure:

1. Request an initial conference with the GT coordinator regarding the placement decision. Those included in this conference would be the parent/guardian questioning the committee decision, the GT coordinator, and the appropriate administrator.
2. After this informal meeting, if the parent/guardian still disagrees with the committee decision, then a written appeal can be filed by the parents to the GT coordinator, including information sharing why they believe the student should have been placed.
3. The GT coordinator will collect any further data that might help in the identification process, including additional testing when possible.
4. An appeals committee of at least five professional educators (including some initial committee members and some new committee members) will be formed to review the appeal. The committee will be chaired by the GT coordinator and include an administrator. The parent making the appeal has the right to address the appeals committee, but will not be present as the committee makes the final placement decision.
5. The decision of the appeals committee will be based on multiple criteria. The decision will be communicated in writing to the parent making the appeal. This decision will be final.

Identification of students for the GT Program is an ongoing process. Students may be referred at any time with a focus on testing at the end of second grade. A student who is not placed may be referred and tested again in subsequent years.