GT SCREENING—KINDERGARTEN

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Katy Independent School District
Session Goals

• Provide information about Katy ISD’s service for gifted elementary students
• Provide information to assist parents in determining whether it is appropriate to refer their child for screening
• Explain the kindergarten GT screening process
In this subchapter, “gifted and talented student” means 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:
State Definition continued

1. Exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area
2. Possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or
3. Excels in a specific academic field

Source: TEA, Texas State Plan and Guidelines for the Education of the Gifted/Talented, Austin, TX
Characteristics of a Gifted Child

**Bright Child**
- Knows the answers
- Learns with ease
- Completes assignments
- Enjoys school
- Absorbs information
- Good memorizer
- Pleased with learning

**Gifted Child**
- Asks the questions
- Already knows
- Initiates projects
- Enjoys learning
- Manipulates information
- Good guesser
- High self-critical
Purpose of Gifted Services

• Meet educational needs of identified students
• Considered to be an educational intervention
• Are *not* honors, awards, or clubs
• Children do not “earn” placement in a gifted program.
G/T Program Design--Kindergarten

• Kindergarten GT service consists of an eight – ten week program beginning the week of February 24.
• Identified students are pulled from their classroom for one hour of instruction per week with the campus Challenge teacher.
Kindergarten Objectives

Students will be introduced to:

• Higher level thinking skills through listening, oral communication, and interpretive thinking.

• Critical thinking activities through the process of logical reasoning, classification, perceiving patterns and relationships and analysis.

• Creative problem solving through activities using fluency, flexibility and originality.
Elementary Challenge Program
Grades 1-5

- Students identified for GT service in kindergarten continue GT service in 1st grade
- Program is designed for students with General Intellectual Ability
- Students participate in 3 high-interest units each year
- This year’s units are Technology, Medicine and Law.
Kindergarten GT Screening

Phase 1: All referred students
1. Parent Checklist
2. Classroom Observation
3. Ability Test

Phase 2: Achievement Test (4th and 5th indicators)

Phase 3: Intelligence Test (6th indicator)

Students with 5 of the 6 indicators at or above the target score are identified in need of gifted services.
Phase 1 Screening

- Parent Checklist
- Classroom Observation
- Standardized Ability Test
Phase 1: Completing the Parent Checklist

The Texas Education Agency requires school districts to collect multiple measures in the identification of students for gifted programs.

**The Parent Checklist** is one of these measures.

Returning the completed Parent Checklist authorizes the school district to collect additional information about your child’s learning, including the administration of standardized tests, and to serve your child in the program if your child is identified.
Read the directions on the Parent Checklist carefully and answer each question as fairly as you can. **Note that giving a score of “3” or “4” requires you to provide specific examples:** otherwise a score of “2” will be given.

My child…

Shows active interest in the world around him/her.

1  2  3  4

Jane has an intense curiosity about how things work, nature and current events. She enjoys watching the Discovery Channel and reading non-fiction books such as *Birds of the Southwest.*
Phase 1: *Classroom Observation*

- The teacher completes a *Classroom Observation* for behaviors typical of GT students.

- The *Classroom Observation* is a qualitative measure, similar to the Parent Checklist.
Phase 1: Ability Test

- Non-verbal test - Reading ability or English language proficiency not required
- Measures cognitive ability
- Scored according to child’s age
- Administered during the school day by a district test proctor
- Parents receive notice of a general testing window, typically about two weeks long
Phase 1: Parent Notification

• Campus committee evaluates Phase 1 measures
• Children who have two scores which meet district target scores continue with screening
• The parents of all other children receive a letter by mail advising them that GT service is not indicated at this time
• Parents may refer their children again in fall of 1st grade for possible service in 2nd grade
Phase 2 Screening: Achievement Testing

- Students with two Phase 1 indicators at the target score will take a standardized achievement test.
- The achievement test measures achievement in the areas of reading and math.
- The score is based on kindergarten grade-level students.
Phase 3: Intelligence Measure

✓ Students with 4 positive indicators from Phases 1 and 2 will proceed to Phase 3
  ✓ Students needing a fifth positive measure will be administered the intelligence measure.
  ✓ Students who have already accrued five positive measures are not tested in Phase 3, since sufficient indicators are already present for identification.
# 2019-20 Kindergarten Screening Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Parent Checklist Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 9- Nov. 8</td>
<td>Ability testing for all referred students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 11-22</td>
<td>Non-acceptance letters sent home to those students not proceeding to Phase 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 2- Jan. 14</td>
<td>Achievement testing for students proceeding to Phase 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 8- Feb. 7</td>
<td>Intelligence testing for students proceeding to Phase 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of Feb. 18</td>
<td>Acceptance and non-acceptance letters sent by US mail for those who continued to Phase 2 and/or Phase 3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 24 – Feb. 28</td>
<td>Formal G/T Kindergarten services begin.</td>
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Should my child be screened this year?

✓ Does my child show some characteristics of giftedness? Review the differences between a bright child and a gifted learner

✓ Is my child ready to take standardized, timed tests? Consider whether your child can handle standardized tests without undue stress

✓ Does my child need to be an early reader? Early reading is not a guarantee of identification, but may help collect the evidence for placement

✓ Is this the right year to refer my child? This is not the last chance to have your child screened for the program. GT screening is an option at every grade level. You may refer your child again.
2019-20 Challenge Teachers

- Alexander --- Linda Twiggs & Olivia Watson
- Bear Creek & Creech--- Lulu Ramirez
- Bethke, Cimarron & Wilson --- Cris Bowden
- Bryant & Hutsell --- Jodi Foreman
- Campbell --- Kelley Butts
- Davidson--- Shannon Jones-Hall & Kelley Butts
- Exley & Mayde Creek --- Sylvia Pursley
- Fielder & Leonard --- Natalie Mahr
- Franz & Rhoads---Liz Harden
- Golbow & Schmalz --- Katie Abbey
2019-20 Challenge Teachers

• Griffin --- Carla Morgan & Manda Simmons
• Hayes --- Christina Ramirez
• Holland --- Mina Rezaie & Manda Simmons
• Jenks --- Stacey Levin
• Katy & Wolfe --- Rose Sager
• Kilpatrick --- Valerie Hang & Olivia Watson
• King --- Melvina (Crickett) Montgomery
• McRoberts & Williams – Ajaya Sonde
• Memorial Parkway & Winborn – Pam Hedegaard-Schou
• Morton Ranch & Sundown --- Sue Wilson
2019-20 Challenge Teachers

- Nottingham Country & WoodCreek --- Ann Treat
- Pattison --- Virginia Neville
- Randolph --- Kristi Sides
- Rylander & West Memorial --- Karen Cooper
- Shafer--- Stacey Stokes & Melvina (Crickett) Montgomery
- Stanley --- Tina Finney & Rebecca Fuller
- Stephens --- Rebecca Fuller
- Wilson --- Taryn Fox, Cris Bowden & Rebecca Fuller
- Wolman --- Sharon Clark
- WoodCreek --- MaryAnn Johnston
Where can I find more information about the gifted?

www.katyisd.org – This presentation will be posted on the GT and Advanced Academic Studies Department webpage.

www.kpgt.org – Katy Parents of Gifted and Talented

www.txgifted.org – Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented

www.nagc.org – National Association for Gifted Children
FAQs

1. What tests will be given? Will I know when?

Katy ISD uses 3 types of nationally normed tests for GT screening:

- Ability testing compares students of the same age.
- Achievement testing compares students in the same grade.
- Intelligence testing compares students of the same age.

The Test Proctor assigned to the campus will provide a range of days on which testing might occur.
FAQs

2. If my child is identified for Challenge, what happens in the regular classroom when my child leaves for Challenge?

   Teachers avoid major tests and brand new material on Challenge days.

   Challenge days provide opportunity for further practice and enrichment for the children in the regular classroom.

   Challenge students are responsible for homework, but not assignments begun and completed in class.
3. Once identified, are students tested each year to remain in the program?

No. Once identified, students remain in the program as long as they are being successful in the program.

Exit from the GT Program is rare.
FAQs

4. What if my child is not proficient in English?

The ability test is a non-verbal test and does not require that the child be proficient in English.

For students who speak Spanish, we are able to administer an achievement test and an intelligence measure in Spanish.
FAQs

5. **What if my child is absent from school on the day a test is scheduled?**

   The proctor will schedule another day for testing.
FAQs

6. **What if my child is younger than classmates?**

   The ability test and the intelligence measure that are administered compare students of the same age, not grade.
7. **If not identified in Kinder, can my child be screened later on?**

Yes. Students are eligible for screening once a year. The next opportunity for screening is in the spring of the 1\textsuperscript{st} grade year for possible service in 2\textsuperscript{nd} grade.
FAQ’s

8. What happens if my child is identified for Challenge, and we later move to a different Katy ISD school?

All Katy schools have the same Challenge program, so there will be no disruption in Challenge service if a child moves within Katy ISD.
Thank you for attending this session. Please contact your campus Challenge teacher for additional information.