What is the Katy ISD GT Screening Process?

Katy ISD evaluates measures collected from multiple sources and is completed in three phases:

Phase 1- Parent checklist, classroom observation and standardized ability test

Students with at least two positive indicators (scores that show the potential for giftedness) in Phase I continue with Phase II screening. If there are not two positive indicators Phase I, screening does not continue.

Phase 2- Achievement tests

Phase I measures + standardized reading and math achievement tests. Students with at least four positive indicators from Phase I and II continue with Phase III screening. If there are not four positive indicators, screening does not continue.

Phase 3- Intelligence measure

Phase I and II measures + a standardized intelligence test.

Screening takes an ample amount of time to complete and students are tested by a district proctor. Please refer to the Testing Window chart for the timeline of each phase of screening.

GT Testing Window Dates 2024-2025

Thank you for your interest in the Katy ISD Gifted and Talented program. These dates are tentative and may change as needed, but it will provide you with an idea of when testing will occur.

Grade	Parent Checklist Submission Deadline	Screening Window	Parents Notified	GT Services Begin for Identified Students
5th	September 4	September - November	January 7-13	Fall 2025
Kinder	September 19	October - February	Phase 1 "No" letter sent home Nov. 14-21. All others February 11-18.	March 2025
1st-4th	October 25	November - April	Phase 1 "No" letter sent home Jan. 27-31 All others May 19-22	Fall 2025
6th-12th	October 4	November-January	Feb. 5-9	Fall 2025

PLEASE NOTE:
- If your child is absent on a day when testing was scheduled, the test proctor will come back another day when the child has returned to school.
- It is understood that if your child is healthy enough to attend school, then your child is healthy enough to take placement tests for the GT program.
- Screening is based on each individual's needs. **Please be aware your child may not be pulled for every phase of testing**.
- Each family will receive a notification according to their child's progress. If you do not receive a phase 1 notice, you will receive a phase 2/3 notice.
- Questions should be directed to the Challenge Teacher/GT Facilitator at your campus.

What is the Katy ISD GT Screening Process?

Screening Window Opens
- Parent fills out GT Screening Checklist and submits prior to submission deadline.
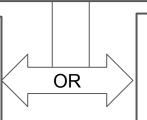- Please check the Testing Window Date Chart for submission deadline.

Phase 1 Screening Begins
- All students with a completed checklist participate in phase 1 of screening.
- Phase 1 of screening includes a parent checklist score, a teacher observation score, and an ability measure.

Phase 1 Screening Ends
- Students who do not have at least two positive indicators at the end of phase 1 will stop screening at this point.
- Placement decision letter will be sent home to parents of students not continuing to phase 2 or phase 3.

OR

Phase 2 Screening Begins
- Students with at least two positive indicators from phase 1 will continue to phase 2 screening.
- Phase 2 screening includes two achievement measures.

Phase 2 Screening Ends
- Students who do not have at least 4 positive indicators at the end of phase 2 will stop screening at this point.
- Students with 5 positive indicators at the end of phase 2 will be identified for GT service to start in the fall of the following year.
- Students with 3 or less positive indicators will not be identified.
- A placement decision will be sent home once the screening window closes.

OR

Phase 3 Screening Begins
- Students with at least 4 positive indicators from phase 2 will continue to phase 3 screening.
- Phase 3 screening includes one intelligence measure.

Screening Window Closes
- Placement decision letters are sent home at the end of screening for each campus.
- Students with 5 positive indicators are identified for GT Service.
- Students with 4 or fewer positive indicators are not identified for GT service.

Elementary GT Screening - Parent FAQ's

What tests are used for screening in Katy ISD?

Katy ISD uses a variety of ability and achievement testing measures in the GT screening process. If qualifying test scores from within the last two school years are available, Katy ISD will use those. Qualifying test scores are those at or above the 95th or 96th percentile, depending on the test. Since, our challenge teachers do not proctor the tests, they are unable to comment on any of the testing in regards to which test is used in each phase. All results are sent home based on our screening timeline.

Who decides if my child qualifies?

All placement decisions made are based on the data produced by the student. A Campus Selection Committee composed of at least three members, who have received training in the nature and needs of gifted students, reviews the student data to determine a placement decision.

How do I get my child's test scores?

All testing data provided to you at the end of the screening process. Parents are notified of the placement decision via email generated by the Katy ISD parent portal during the designated window. All results are confidential, please do not share or compare your child's profile with that of your friends' and neighbors' children.

What if my child fails the test? Can they retest?

A child cannot "fail" the GT identification process. Gifted and talented individuals make up a very small percentage of the population (3%), therefore most students tested are not eligible for service. Many of the students tested are high achievers who make good grades and are very successful in school. High achievers are often at the top of their graduating classes and do well in Advanced Placement (AP) and Pre-AP courses without having been in GT classes. The purpose of the screening process is to determine if a student has extreme needs, thus necessitating services through the GT program.

Due to the nature and longevity of the screening process, re-testing is not available, a student may rescreen the following school year when the appropriate grade level window opens.