



**Gifted & Talented Guidelines
and Procedures**

Updated Summer 2022

Program Vision

The purpose of Celina ISD gifted services is to identify gifted students and nurture their special abilities, thereby assisting them in translating their gifts of potential into productive performances that are commensurate with their abilities.

Program Mission

Guided by best practices we will identify, teach, support, and nurture gifted and talented students to achieve their fullest potential.

Program Description

Gifted and Talented (GT) Programs provide instructional opportunities and other services designed to meet the needs of students with significantly advanced general intellectual ability and/or specific subject matter aptitude. These programs will provide appropriately differentiated instruction and ensure the students are instructed in essential knowledge and skills while demonstrating an acceptable degree of mastery. As needed, the teachers will modify delivery of instruction for students by accelerating and providing greater depth, more complex content, and extensive enrichment activities.

Objectives

The general goal of the Gifted & Talented Program is to provide a differentiated educational program for gifted and talented students in the district.

1. Program Management Objectives
 - a. To identify students in grades kindergarten through twelfth grades (K-12) to be served by the programs
 - b. To understand the abilities and needs of each gifted and talented student
 - c. To provide teachers at each campus with knowledge and skills necessary to implement the programs for the gifted and talented
 - d. To develop appropriate curricula and identify instructional materials to support programs goals
 - e. To involve parents and community members in the implementation of the Gifted & Talented programs
 - f. To implement evaluation procedures for effective programming and for program continuation, refinement, and possible expansion

2. Program Objectives for Students

- a. To develop their abilities at higher level through more complex thinking skills (including critical, creative, and computational thinking) in activities that are extensions of the regular curriculum and enrichment
- b. To study advanced-level content and master the major concepts, skills and processes of specific disciplines in which they demonstrate ability
- c. To develop the skills necessary for self-directed learning and to conduct independent studies and research projects that extend the regular curriculum and result in advanced-level products
- d. To gain an understanding and respect for each person's abilities, recognize the similarities and differences between themselves and others, increase interpersonal relationships and develop their own unique abilities for the betterment of both themselves and society

Characteristics of Gifted Students

The district definition of giftedness is based on the state definition:

"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: (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.

Texas Education Code 29.121

Student Eligibility

The district will not discriminate against students with regard to race, color, religious affiliation, sex, or disability.

A student is classified as eligible for participation in the Gifted & Talented Program based upon criteria set by the district according to the guidelines of the Texas Education Agency.

Service Design

Elementary School (Grade K): All kindergarten students identified as GT after the assessment process will be served by their homeroom teacher, who is GT certified, during the regular school day. Gifted & Talented pull-out services will begin in the Fall semester of their 1st grade school year.

Elementary School (Grades 1-5): All elementary students will be served by a Gifted & Talented Specialist for one hour, one time per week. In addition, identified students will be served by cluster grouping with a teacher who is GT trained.

Middle School (Grades 6-8): Gifted and talented students will be served by cluster grouping with a GT trained teacher in Advanced ELAR classes and other core curriculum classes. Additional advanced classes are also offered to each grade level. This design allows students to receive multiple options of advanced curriculum through differentiated teacher designed lesson plans; these lessons will include depth and complexity to assure higher level thinking. Advanced classes offered to the middle school students include 6th grade advanced reading and math; 7th grade advanced reading and math; and 8th grade advanced reading and Algebra I.

High School (Grades 9-12): Identified Gifted & Talented students in the high school grades are served through pre-AP and AP classes. This design allows students to receive multiple options of advanced curriculum through differentiated teacher designed lesson plans; these lessons will include depth and complexity to assure higher level thinking. Advanced classes offered at the pre-AP and AP level include Biology, Art Draw & Design, Calculus, US History, Art 2D, Chemistry, English 3, English 4, Human Geography, World History, and Spanish 4.

Personnel and Professional Development Requirements

Celina Independent School District will ensure that the teachers of gifted students meet the district and state standards for required training and certifications.

Special skills, attributes, and certifications are required of teachers and staff who work with gifted students. The development of special skills is an essential focus of the program, and teachers selected for the Gifted & Talented Program will possess certain abilities and characteristics as a basis for professional growth.

Assessment Procedures and Referral Process

Referrals for the Celina ISD Gifted & Talented Program may be made by parents, teachers, counselors, community members, or peers. Students may be referred for screening each year during the designated grade level referral windows. Before requesting a referral, parents are encouraged to review their child's district testing data and reach out to their child's classroom teacher(s) regarding their child's academic strengths. Yearly referral windows will be posted on the Gifted and Talented Department webpage. Students who meet the district gifted education program criteria are recommended by each campus Gifted & Talented

Committee for participation in the Gifted & Talented program. Parents will receive notification letters and/or communication from their child’s school counselor.

Grades 1-12 Teacher & Parent Referral Window	Opens the 1st Monday in October, Closes the 3rd Friday in October	Parents are notified of the results in late December. Students will begin services at the start of the 2nd semester.
Kindergarten Teacher & Parent Referral Window	Opens the 1st Monday in January, Closes the last Friday in January	Parents are notified of the results in April. Students will begin services at the start of their 1st grade school year.
Grades 1-12 Teacher Referral Window	Open the 1st Monday in February, Closes the 3rd Friday in February	Parents are notified of the results in April. Students will begin services at the start of the following school year.

Referral Data Collection

- The campus counselor will be responsible for coordinating the maintenance of records of all referral and assessment data
- Data will be collected in the following categories as needed for assessing students for placement in the Gifted & Talented Program:
 - a. Quantitative Data
 - b. Qualitative Data
- Confidentiality will be assured regarding the rights of privacy of the individual according to legal standards. Information collected by the campus counselor will be available to those who need it for use in educational purposes
- All data collected will be recorded on the Gifted & Talented Profile Form
- All students will be assessed using the district approved instruments and assessment measures
- The Gifted & Talented Assessment Committee may consider additional assessments as recommended by the campus counselor or Student Services Coordinator.
- Students enrolling in the district who were previously identified as gifted in another district must meet particular standards as outlined in this document. Once testing information is received from the prior district, it will be placed on the CISD matrix and referred to the campus Gifted & Talented selection committee. If testing data is unavailable or does not meet our criteria, then the student will need to go through the regular Fall process.
- Students transferring within the district will be placed in the gifted and talented program at the accepting campus with no interruption of services

New or Transfer Students

The school counselor at each campus will be notified by the PEIMS clerk when a new student indicates they were GT at their previous school. The counselor will request GT paperwork/testing from parents and/or former district. If testing information is received, it will be placed on the CISD matrix and referred to the campus Gifted & Talented selection committee. If testing data is unavailable or does not meet our criteria, then the student will need to go through the regular Fall process. Students transferring within the district will be placed in the gifted and talented program at the accepting campus with no interruption of services.

Appeals Process

An individual requesting reconsideration may submit an appeal form to the Campus Counselor. The Coordinator of Student Services and Campus Counselor will coordinate the process and are responsible for hearing, approving, or denying appeals.

1. An individual initiating an appeal will complete the Gifted & Talented Identification Appeal Form indicating the reason for the appeal and will submit it to the District Student Services Coordinator or Campus Counselor by the date communicated in the committee decision.
2. The campus and district committee will hear any official appeals within ten (10) working days. The Campus Counselor will inform the parent/student of the date and time of the appeals committee meeting.
3. The committee may reconsider placement in the Gifted & Talented program by reviewing the following information:
 - a. Review of information from the Gifted & Talented Student Profile Form and district assessment results.
 - b. Presentation of data by the student, parent and/or guardian.
 - c. Presentation of other materials deemed appropriate to the purpose of the committee.
 - d. Decisions regarding the appeal will be made within 10 working days of the appeal hearing. Parents will be notified in writing of the committee's decision.

Should an individual requesting reconsideration disagree with the Gifted & Talented Assessment Committee's decision, the parent or student may file an appeal grievance within fifteen working days in accordance with FNG (LOCAL) beginning at Level Two.

Furloughs and Exits

Students in the gifted programs are subject to furlough and exit procedures at any time during the academic year. The campus counselor and/or campus administrator will be primarily responsible for the furlough exit procedures.

Procedures for Furlough

1. If a student or parent requests a furlough from the program, this request must be entered on the District Furlough/Exit Request Form and submitted to the campus counselor or the District's Student Services Coordinator.
2. Students who choose not to participate in the Gifted & Talented Program due to a scheduling or programmatic conflict, illness, or any other reason deemed valid may request to go on furlough.
3. At the middle school and high school level, failure to participate in an offered advanced level course or Gifted & Talented program can constitute a furlough.
4. A student may be furloughed for a period of time not to exceed one calendar year. At the end of the furlough, the student will re-enter or be exited from the gifted program.

Procedures for Exit

1. If a student or parent requests removal from the program, this request must be entered on the District Furlough/Exit Request Form.

Student Records

The permanent records of students participating in the program will include records of all testing, referral forms, student profile and parental consent forms as prescribed in district procedures. The campus counselor will be responsible for the maintenance of the student's gifted and talented records.

When students in the program are transferred or promoted from one campus in the district to another, the campus counselor, along with designated campus personnel, will provide a roster of those transferred or promoted to their new campus.

Program Evaluation

Monitoring of the program is a state and local responsibility. The CISD Gifted & Talented program will be evaluated annually by the campus and district level coordinators.

