

CREDIT BY EXAM

- A student in any grade (K-12) may use examinations in lieu of course work for:
 - Acceleration to advance one grade level (K-5)
 - Earning credit in an academic subject (grades 6-12)
- Questions regarding these examinations and procedures for kindergarten-5th grade acceleration may be discussed with the campus principal.
- The parent must file a written request with the campus principal for a student to accelerate a grade or course, and the parent request must include a rationale for the acceleration and testing.
- Dates for testing are published in each edition of *The Communicator* and in campus handbooks.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Weatherford ISD provides many other opportunities for further talent development.

- UIL Competitions
- National Junior Honor Society
- National Honor Society
- Student Council
- Duke Talent Search
- Solo and Ensemble Contest
- All Region Music Groups
- Community Service
- Destination Imagination
- Texas Math and Science Coaches Association (TMSCA)

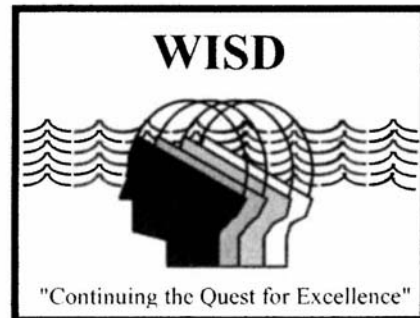


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Weatherford
Independent School District



Gifted and Talented Program
for Grades K-12

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

Weatherford Independent School District's gifted and talented program, Quest, identifies and serves gifted students in grades kindergarten through twelve. The district program provides a differentiated curriculum in the four core academic areas to meet the needs of the gifted learner. Students engage in a variety of activities in all four core content areas: language arts, science, social studies and mathematics. The teachers of gifted and talented students provide a learning environment where depth and complexity are the focus in both individual and group settings.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Modify the depth, complexity, and pacing of curriculum and instruction to meet the needs of gifted students.
- Provide a learning continuum to reinforce the strengths, needs, and interests of gifted students.
- Encourage community and family participation.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Grades Kindergarten through two will be served by the classroom teacher through differentiated instruction in language arts, mathematics, social studies and science.

Grades three through six will be served through differentiated instruction in a weekly pull-out program with certified gifted/talented teachers.

Grades Seven-Twelve will be served in the following way:

- AP and PreAP classes with differentiated instruction in language arts, social studies, mathematics and science.

NATURE AND NEEDS OF GIFTED/TALENTED STUDENTS

Because gifted students possess abilities that allow them to move at a faster pace and to retain knowledge in great depth when compared with other students, they require not only a challenging curriculum, but also planned opportunities to work together with other students of advanced ability, interest, and motivation.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Criteria to identify gifted and talented students are specific to the state definition of gifted and talented and ensures the fair assessment of students with special needs, such as the culturally different, the economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities.

Nominations for the program are accepted from parents, teachers, and community members.

Written parental consent shall be obtained before any testing is conducted as part of the screening and identification process.

Data are collected through both objective and subjective assessments. Assessment tools may include but not be limited to the following: achievement tests, intelligence tests, creativity tests, behavioral checklists completed by teachers and parents, teacher nominations based on classroom observations, student/parent conferences, and student work products, if available.

A selection committee shall evaluate each nominated student according to the established criteria and shall select those students for whom gifted program placement is the most appropriate educational setting.

Students who are not placed in the program may be reassessed after two calendar years. Nominated kindergarten students are assessed during the spring semester. In addition, students may be assessed once in middle school (7-8) and again in high school (9-12.)

Parents and students shall be notified in writing upon selection of the student for the gifted program. Participation in any program or services provided for gifted students is voluntary. The District shall obtain written permission of the student and the parents before a student is placed in a gifted program.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

When a student, identified as gifted by a previous school district, transfers into WISD, the student's records shall be reviewed by the selection committee to determine if placement in the local program for gifted and talented students is appropriate. The committee shall make its determination within 30 days of the student's enrollment, and shall base its decision on the transferred records, observation reports of district teachers who instruct the student, additional testing if needed, and student and parent conferences.