

Gifted and Talented Program



MISD Gifted Program

The Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted and Talented Students defines the gifted student as a child or youth performing or showing the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment, and who:

- Exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area;
- Possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or
- Excels in a specific academic field. (Texas Education Code 29.121; 1995)

All districts follow TEA guidelines for Gifted and Talented, but each district may set its own criteria for identification as well as services provided.

Midlothian ISD identifies students in the area of general intellectual ability, and does not identify students based on specific subject area ability.

MISD Gifted Program – Elementary

The Elementary program is a pull-out program.

- Students are served once a week by a district GT Specialist
- Additionally, identified students are clustered in regular education classrooms
 - Students work in groups during differentiated instruction provided by the classroom teacher
 - All MISD teachers have the TEA required 30 hours of GT training as well as yearly training updates.

The pull-out program with a district GT Specialist includes a time frame set aside to work on enrichment activities on a variety of topics.

- Planned curriculum covers aptitudes in areas such as, critical thinking, creative thinking, metacognition, affective development, and research.

MISD Gifted Program – Elementary

Approximate times for weekly pull-out GT classes are:

- 1st - 2nd - 1 hour
- 3rd - 5th - 1 ½ hours

Kindergarten students identified in March, receive differentiated instruction in the general education classroom.

As part of the program design, identified GT students also participate in a weekly Challenge Lab time.

MISD Gifted Program – Elementary

What are challenge labs?

- An enrichment opportunity run by the district GT specialists with open-ended activities that will challenge the students to build, create, or work collaboratively with a small group to accomplish a task.
- Challenge lab activities foster skills that all students need to be successful 21st century learners:
 - risk-taking, perseverance, social and emotional intelligence, innovative thinking, and initiative.
 - Students who participate in problem-based learning and creative problem-solving are better equipped to face challenges both inside and outside of the classroom.

MISD Gifted Program – Referral and Screening Elementary

Referrals for the Gifted and Talented Program may be made by parents, teachers, students, counselors, or community members during the referral windows set each school year.

Students may be referred for testing if they have not be screened within the past 2 years.

- Prior testing data may be considered valid for 2 years.
 - *students may still be referred, but if testing data is valid only updated qualitative data and current achievement data will be considered.
- Referral windows for specific grade levels will be posted on the Gifted and Talented webpage.

MISD Gifted Program – Referral and Screening Elementary

The Kindergarten referral window will run from December 3-20, 2018.

All other elementary referrals, grades 1-5, will be accepted from March 19-29, 2019, with testing being conducted in **April** and **May**.

Parents may request a referral packet by contacting your child's teacher or school counselor.

If you have questions regarding referral or testing for the GT program, please contact your child's counselor or attend the GT Parent Information Meeting. Dates and times are listed on the MISD website.

MISD Gifted Program - Testing Process

Elementary

Qualitative and **quantitative** measures shall be used for GT program placement. Assessment tools may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ability tests (online)
- achievement tests (online)
- creativity measures and observation inventories

Each student will have a GT profile form. Scores from all assessments will be placed on that form to determine if the student meets the established district criteria.

MISD Gifted Program – Testing Process

Elementary

Final determination of a student's need for Gifted and Talented services is made by a committee of district educators who have had specific GT training. A balanced review of the data will be conducted before making identification and placement decisions.

Parents will receive written notice of the GT committee placement recommendations.

- Kindergarten - Parents notified by March 1, 2019
- 1st - 5th - Parents notified by **May 30, 2019 in the final report card**

MISD Gifted Program – Score Reporting

Score Reporting

Scores will be reported in percentile rank. A student's percentile rank indicates the percentage of students in a particular group that scored at or below the score of a student. It shows the student's relative position or rank in a group of students who are in the same grade and who were tested at the same time of year (fall, midyear, or spring).

Example: If Toni earned a PR of 72 on a Verbal Reasoning test, it means that she scored higher than 72 percent of students in that group with which she is being compared. It also means that 28 percent of the group scored higher than Toni.

The GT committee considers percentile rank scores that are at or above 92 PR.

MISD Gifted Program – Consideration of referral

If you are considering having your child tested for Gifted and Talented, we encourage you to speak to your child's teacher. Your child's teacher will be able to offer great insight into your child's learning style and strengths as well as his/her social and emotional well-being.

While many students are high-achieving, they are not all gifted. Questions to ask your child's teacher that may be helpful include:

- What are my child's strengths?
- At what level is my child's engagement in the classroom?
- Describe my child's performance in class.
- How does my child interact socially?

MISD Gifted Program – Consideration of referral

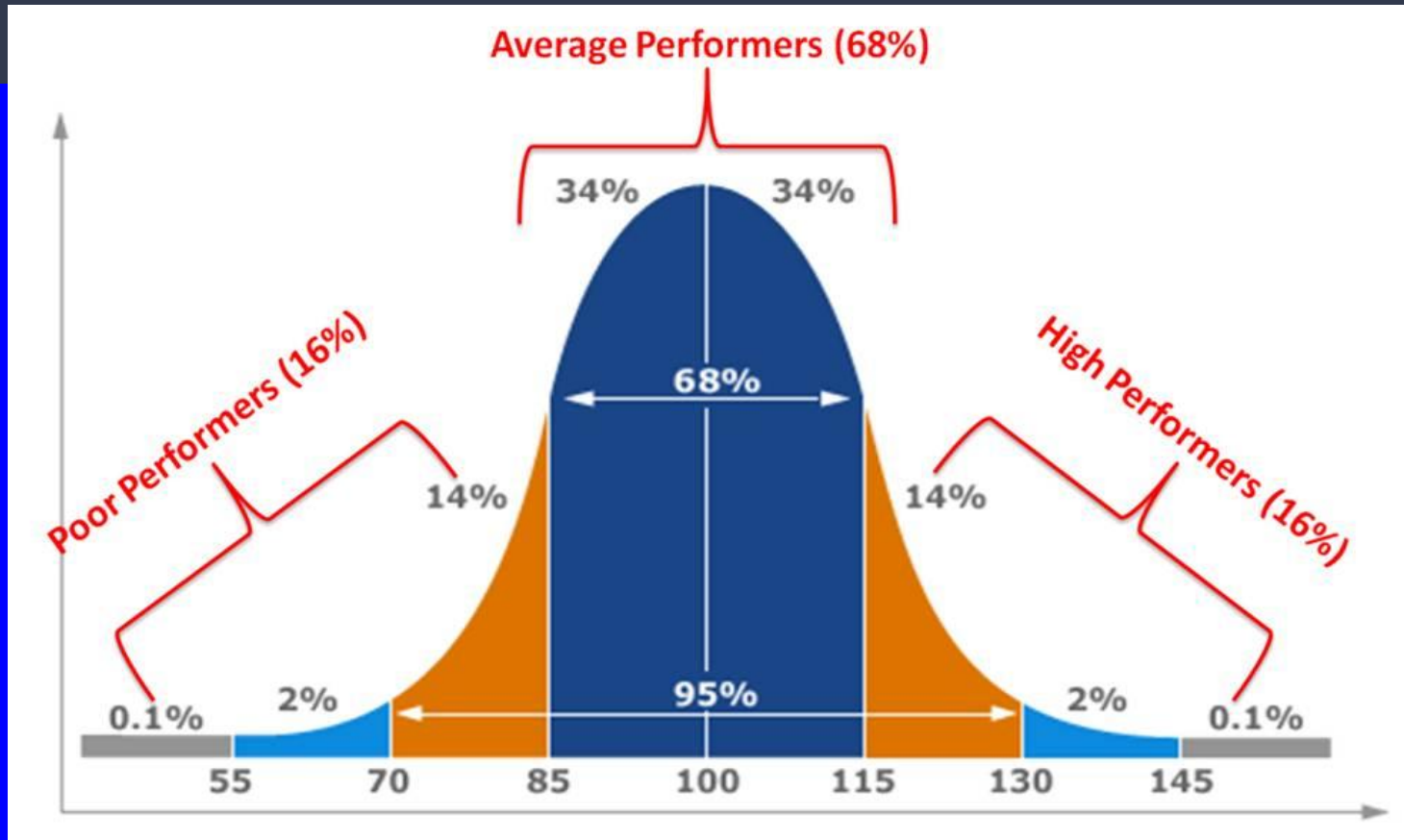
More to consider:

- Gifted and Talented is an educational placement.
- Testing is rigorous and can sometimes be stressful on students.
- Gifted and Talented services are also rigorous and challenging.
- Students often feel pressure to “qualify” or to be “accepted” and may feel a sense of rejection if they do not meet criteria.
- Be mindful of discussions you are having with your child prior to testing.
 - You can explain that assessments will determine strengths and areas for growth
 - Dispel the myth of pass/fail for GT
 - There is no way to study for the assessments - students need to feel confident to do the best they can

MISD Gifted Program – Referral Resources

A High Achiever...	A Gifted Learner...	A Creative Thinker...
Remembers the answers.	Poses unforeseen questions.	Sees exceptions.
Is interested.	Is curious.	Wonders.
Is attentive.	Is selectively mentally engaged.	Daydreams; may seem off task.
Generates advanced ideas.	Generates complex, abstract ideas.	Overflows with ideas, many of which will never be developed.
Works hard to achieve.	Knows without working hard.	Plays with ideas and concepts.
Answer the questions in detail.	Ponders with depth and multiple perspectives.	Injects new possibilities.
Performs at the top of the group.	Is beyond the group.	Is in own group.
Responds with interest and opinions.	Exhibits feelings and opinions from multiple perspectives.	Shares bizarre, sometimes conflicting opinions.
Learns with ease.	Already knows.	Questions: What if...
Needs 6 to 8 repetitions to master.	Needs 1 to 3 repetitions to master.	Questions the need for mastery.
Comprehends at a high level.	Comprehends in-depth, complex ideas.	Overflows with ideas--many of which will never be developed.
Enjoys the company of age peers.	Prefers the company of intellectual peers.	Prefers the company of creative peers but often works alone.
Understands complex, abstract humor.	Creates complex, abstract humor.	Relishes wild, off-the-wall humor.
Grasps the meaning.	Infers and connects concepts.	Makes mental leaps: Aha!
Completes assignments on time.	Initiates projects and extensions of assignments.	Initiates more projects that will never be completed.
Is receptive.	Is intense.	Is independent and unconventional.
Is accurate and complete.	Is original and continually developing.	Is original and continually developing.
Enjoys school often.	Enjoys self-directed learning.	Enjoys creating.
Absorbs information.	Manipulates information.	Improvises.
Is a technician with expertise in a field.	Is an expert who abstracts beyond the field.	Is an inventor and idea generator.
Memorizes well.	Guesses and infers well.	Creates and brainstorms well.
Is highly alert and observant.	Anticipates and relates observations.	Is intuitive.
Is pleased with own learning.	Is self-critical.	Is never finished with possibilities.
Gets A's.	May not be motivated by grades.	May not be motivated by grades.
Is able.	Is intellectual.	Is idiosyncratic.

MISD Gifted Program - Referral Resources



Questions?

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[GT Program](#)