

# Wylie ISD Gifted & Talented Services Awareness Session

What does it mean to be “gifted?” How do I know if my child is gifted?  
How do I have them tested? What opportunities are available for  
identified gifted students? Your questions answered?

# Texas State Goal

- ▶ The state's goal for GT students is to ensure that those students who participate in GT services demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication. GT students develop innovative products and sophisticated performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are targeted to an audience outside the classroom.

# Definition of a Gifted Child

- ▶ “A gifted and talented student” is defined as a child or youth who performs at or shows the potential for performing at a remarkable high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment and who exhibits high performance capacity in general intellectual ability.

# Characteristics of Gifted Students

## ▶ High Achiever

- ▶ Knows the answers
- ▶ Learns with ease
- ▶ Completes assignments
- ▶ Enjoys school
- ▶ Absorbs information
- ▶ Good memorizer
- ▶ Pleased with own learning

## Gifted Learner

- Asks the questions
- Already knows
- Initiates projects
- Enjoys learning
- Manipulates information
- Good guesser
- Is highly self-critical

# The Goal of Services for Gifted Students

- ▶ The goal for gifted students is to ensure that those students who participate in GT services demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, and communication. GT students develop innovative products and sophisticated performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are targeted to an audience outside the classroom.

▶ Texas Education Agency

# Referral Period

- ▶ **Wylie ISD will open the referral period for GT on December 1st, 2023.**
- ▶ Parents, teachers, and community members may refer a student in grades Kindergarten through 11<sup>th</sup> grade for Gifted and Talented testing by filling out a referral form. The forms can be picked up at the front table of each campus or accessed online.
- ▶ **Deadline to submit referrals is noon, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

# Assessment Process

- ▶ Once a referral form has been received for a student, a letter of parental permission to test for academic giftedness is sent home. Once parental approval is obtained, the students will begin the assessment process.
- ▶ Testing for the program is done in January/February each year.
- ▶ Students are assessed with quantitative and qualitative assessments, including parent and teacher behavioral checklists.

# Determination of Need

- ▶ A selection committee made of a campus administrator, counselor, and GT specialist will review the data gathered during the assessment process. The committee will recommend placement for students whose data meets the criteria for placement in the Gifted and Talented program. Decisions are based on multiple pieces of quantitative and qualitative data gathered during the assessment period.
- ▶ The selection committee is formed of members who have completed training as required by 19TAC §89.2



# Parent Notification

- ▶ Once the selection committee has determined which students met the criteria for placement in the Gifted and Talented program, written notification will be sent out to the parents of all the students that participated in the GT assessments. The notification will tell the parents whether or not their child qualified for placement in the Gifted and Talented program.
- ▶ If the student qualifies for the program, parental approval or denial of their child in the Gifted and Talented program must be obtained before services begin.
- ▶ Parents may request a conference to discuss assessment data.

# Student Served

- ▶ Once parental approval for placement in the Gifted and Talented program has been obtained, the student will immediately begin being served in the Gifted and Talented program on their campus.

# Appeals Process

- ▶ Students that do not qualify for services may submit an appeal with supporting evidence that provides additional information for the GT committee.

# Program Design and Services

## ▶ Kindergarten, Elementary, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- ▶ In addition to appropriate interdisciplinary differentiation in the classroom, GT services are provided weekly. Identified gifted learners (in grades 1-4) are cluster grouped into classrooms with educators who have their gifted and talented training. Instruction focuses on the development of critical and creative thinking skills, research skills, communication, and developing products. Instruction also focuses on meeting the social-emotional needs of gifted students.

## ▶ Jr. High & Secondary

- ▶ Identified GT students in grades 6-12 are provided services specific to their strengths and selection. GT students may be cluster grouped in advanced, Pre-AP/AP, STEM, Fine Arts, or leadership courses. Check with your child's campus for additional information.

## ▶ Special Opportunities

- ▶ Contests, academic recognition, camps, community programs, volunteer opportunities, out of school options and showcases are shared with students, parents, and community members.

# Gifted and Talented Program Contact Information

- ▶ Wylie ISD Testing Coordinator : Kristal Noble, [kristal.noble@wyliebulldogs.org](mailto:kristal.noble@wyliebulldogs.org)
- ▶ Wylie ISD GT Specialist: Kim Cheek, [kim.cheek@wyliebulldogs.org](mailto:kim.cheek@wyliebulldogs.org)
- ▶ Wylie ISD Counselors:
- ▶ Wylie West Elementary Counselor: Dona Neves, [dona.neves@wyliebulldogs.org](mailto:dona.neves@wyliebulldogs.org)
- ▶ Wylie East Elementary Campus: Cinnamon Thompson, [cinnamon.thompson@wyliebulldogs.org](mailto:cinnamon.thompson@wyliebulldogs.org)
- ▶ Wylie East Intermediate Campus Counselor: Piper Seawright, [piper.seawright@wyliebulldogs.org](mailto:piper.seawright@wyliebulldogs.org)
- ▶ Wylie West Elementary Assistant Principal: Elizabeth Carey, [liz.carey@wyliebulldogs.org](mailto:liz.carey@wyliebulldogs.org)
- ▶ Wylie West Intermediate Campus Counselor: Amy Montoya, [amy.montoya@wyliebulldogs.org](mailto:amy.montoya@wyliebulldogs.org)
- ▶ Wylie West Jr. High Campus Counselors: Grades 5 & 6, Andrea McMaster, [andrea.mcmaster@wyliebulldogs.org](mailto:andrea.mcmaster@wyliebulldogs.org)
- ▶ Grades 7 & 8 Kayla Vinson, [kayla.vinson@wyliebulldogs.org](mailto:kayla.vinson@wyliebulldogs.org)
- ▶ Wylie East Jr. High School Campus Counselor: Alison South, [allison.south@wyliebulldogs.org](mailto:allison.south@wyliebulldogs.org)
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