

GT

Gifted & Talented

Handbook



NEW CANEY ISD

2016-2017

GIFTED AND TALENTED HANDBOOK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW and MISSION.....	2
STATE GOAL.....	3
PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.....	4
CHARACTERISTICS OF GIFTED LEARNERS.....	5
PROGRAMS.....	6
IDENTIFICATION PROCESS.....	7-8
Nominations	
Assessment/Testing	
Selection and Notification	
FURLOUGH, EXIT and TRANSFER.....	9
APPEALS and REASSESSMENT.....	10
SECOND GRADE UNIVERSAL TESTING.....	11
GRADE ACCELERATION.....	12
KINDERGARTEN ACCELERATION.....	13



OVERVIEW OF NCISD GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

Every student deserves the opportunity to advance academically as far as his/her ability, motivation and effort allows. The New Caney ISD Gifted and Talented Program provides advanced learners with the appropriate classroom instruction and services to fulfill their highest potential. Students identified as GT require modifications in instructional strategies, content, and development of skills and/or products beyond that required in a general education setting.

NEW CANEY ISD GT MISSION

New Caney ISD schools are committed to providing a program that meets the unique social, emotional and intellectual needs of gifted and talented students through the collaboration of students, educators, parents and community members that ensures opportunities for maximum growth and development for life-long success.



STATE GOAL

Texas Education Code

Chapter 29. Educational Programs

Subchapter D. Education Programs for Gifted and Talented Students

29.121. Definition

Students who participate in services designed for gifted students demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research and communication as evidenced by the development of innovative products and performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are advanced in relation to students of similar age, experience or environment. High school graduate who have participated in services for gifted students will have produced products and performances of professional quality as part of their program services.

29.122. Establishment

The State of Texas has defined a gifted student as 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: exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area, possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or excels in a specific academic field.

29.123. State Plan: Assistance.

The State Board of Education shall develop and periodically update a State Plan for the Education of Gifted and Talented Students to guide school districts in establishing and improving programs for identified students. The regional education service centers may assist districts in implementing the state plan. In addition to obtaining from a regional education service center, a district may obtain other assistance in implementing the plan. The plan shall be used for accountability purposes to measure the performance of districts in providing services to students identified as gifted and talented.

Texas Education Code as passed by the 74th Legislature of the State of Texas, Effective September 1, 1995.



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

NCISD Gifted and Talented students will:

- Develop critical thinking skills in order to solve problems logically
- Develop research skills and use information gathered
implementing a research project
- Demonstrate the ability to use creative problem solving strategies
- Recognize how change in and around their world affects their
relationships

CHARACTERISTICS OF GT LEARNERS

(from Janice Szabos in Challenge Magazine)

A Bright Child	A Gifted Learner
knows the answers	asks the questions
is interested	is highly curious
is attentive	is mentally and physically involved
has good ideas	has wild, silly ideas
works hard	plays around, yet tests well
answers the questions	discusses in detail, elaborates
top group	beyond the group
listens with interest	shows strong feeling and opinions
learns with ease	already knows
enjoys peers	prefers adults
grasps the meaning	draws inferences
completes assignments	initiates projects
copies accurately	creates a new design
enjoys school	enjoys learning
good memorizer	good guesser
enjoys straight forward sequential presentation	thrives on complexity
is alert	is keenly observant
is pleased with own learning	is highly self-critical



PROGRAMS

NCISD's GT Program is divided into three levels:

- **Talent Pool** for kindergarten through 2nd grade
- **Elementary GT** for grades three through five
- **Secondary Advanced Academics** for sixth through 12.

Talent Pool

The Talent Pool is designed for children in kindergarten through second grade who possess outstanding imagination, thinking ability, innovative or creative reasoning ability in problem solving. Each fall parents and educators may nominate a child for the Talent Pool if they feel the child performs at or shows the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to their peers. The nominees will be given assessments to measure their creativity and problem solving skills. Students identified for the Talent Pool will receive enrichment learning opportunities to nurture their creativity.

Elementary GT

Identified students will be served with curriculum designed to meet the needs of GT students in several ways. In addition to differentiation in the classroom, identified students will be directly served at least 90 minutes a week with the following opportunities:

- Independent study and research
- Creative problem solving
- Academic competitions such as UIL or Scrabble

Secondary Advanced Academics

The identified students will have opportunities to take AP, Pre-AP and Dual Credit classes. Independent study and research opportunities may be available. The secondary students are also encouraged to participate in competitions such as UIL Academics, History Fair and the Academic Pentathlon/Decathlon. Secondary students must be enrolled in at least two Pre-AP/ AP/ Dual Credit courses in order to maintain GT services. One course must be in math or ELA.



IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

1. Nomination

Students may be nominated by:

Parents,
Peers,
Teachers,
Other educators
And/or themselves

Nomination forms will be completed by the person who nominated the child; however, parents must give consent before the student can be tested or evaluated. Parent Nomination Forms are available in the front office of each campus and should be submitted to the campus counselor. (Forms are available on the Gifted and Talented website under FORMS and at the end of this document.)

Nominations can be made at any time during the school year; however, any testing and identification will be completed according to the NCISD assessment and identification schedule.

If a teacher nominates a student, parents must give their permission for their child to be tested.



2. Assessment/Testing

Screening will be conducted by the GT selection committee. This committee will be composed of three designated professional educators who have received training in the nature and needs of gifted students. The following assessments may be used in the screening process:

Kindergarten:

- Teacher/Educator Inventory of GT Characteristics
- Parent Inventory of GT Characteristics
- Kingore Creativity Activities
- Reading Assessment
- Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test

First through Twelfth Grade:

- Teacher/Educator Inventory of GT Characteristics
- Parent Inventory of GT Characteristics
- Math Assessment
- Reading Assessment
- Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test

3. Selection

The selection committee will evaluate each nominated student and select the students based on the assessments. The committee may also consider a portfolio of the student's work and an interview with the student.

4. Notification

Parents and students will be notified in writing upon selection of the student into the GT program. Participation is voluntary. The district requires written permission of the parents before a student is placed in the program.

FURLOUGH

Students who are unable to maintain satisfactory performance within the GT program may be placed on furlough by the Selection Committee. The purpose of a furlough may be to provide the student an opportunity to attain performance goals. A furlough may be granted at the request of the student, parent, and/or teacher. Reasons for the furlough may include a change in family situation, emotional issues or unsatisfactory performance in the GT program as determined by the teacher. A student may be furloughed for a set period of time deemed appropriate by the Selection Committee. At the end of the furlough, the student's progress shall be reassessed with the following options:

1. Re-enter the GT program
2. Be removed from the GT program
3. Receive an extended furlough

EXIT

It is expected that GT students will perform at the highest levels; therefore, student achievement will be monitored. A student shall be removed from the program at any time the Selection Committee determines it is the best interest of the student. A pattern of consistent failure in the GT program will be considered as good cause for removal. If a student or parent requests removal from the program, the district will honor the request after a conference with the Selection Committee or its representative. The process for exiting a student from GT includes an initial parent/student conference with teachers, administrators, and the student's counselor. At that time the concerns should be addressed and a plan of action should be established with a date set to review progress on the plan. If the student is not making progress toward the plan at that time the Selection Committee for the campus must meet to determine if the student is exited from the program.

TRANSFERS

When a student identified as GT by a previous school district transfers into NCISD, the student's records will be reviewed by the Selection Committee. The committee will determine if placement in the district's program for the GT student is appropriate.

APPEALS

Parents of students may appeal any final decision of the Selection Committee regarding selection or removal from the GT program. Appeals should be made first to the Selection Committee before requesting an appeal from the district.

REASSESSMENT

The district does not perform routine GT reassessments. However, if a parent or a teacher believes that there have been mistakes in the identification process related to a student or if the student is performing below expected standards in the GT program, the Selection Committee may deem it appropriate to reassess a student.



SECOND GRADE UNIVERSAL TESTING

To help identify all gifted and talented students, the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT) will be administered universally to all second grade students. The NNAT will be scheduled each year in the spring semester. All students will complete the assessment including those who participated in the Talent Pool.

According to the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), gifted and talented students in this country make up approximately six to ten percent of the total student population.

Of the approximately 1,000 second grader students in NCISD, about 100 could possibly be gifted. Administering the NNAT to all second graders will help identify these gifted learners.

If the NNAT assessment shows that your child could be gifted, parents will be notified and requested to complete an evaluation of your child's abilities. Other criterion that will be considered will include teacher evaluation along with reading and math scores. If a child is identified as gifted and talented, parents must give their permission to place them in the GT program for the upcoming school year.



GRADE ACCELERATION

New Caney ISD provides four testing sessions for students who wish to attempt credit by exam for acceleration to skip a grade and/or a course. The four testing sessions for 2015-2016 include:

Fall Testing: October 3-7 (*grades K-12*) **Deadline:** September 9

Mid-Year Testing: *Jan. 9-13* (grades 9-12) **Deadline:** Dec. 9

End of Year Testing: *May 15-19* (grades 6-12) **Deadline:** April 14

Summer Testing: *July 16-19* (*grades K-12*) **Deadline:** May 26

Eligibility: Students who are currently enrolled in Grades K-12.

- **Testing Criteria:** Students in grades K-8 are eligible to advance one grade level if they score an 80% or above on all subject tests including language arts/reading, math, social studies and science. Elementary students will take four tests and middle school students will take eight tests, one for each semester of the four subjects. High school students may test in one or more subject areas and must score 80% on each test taken to receive credit. **Students may not take a credit by exam test for any subject that has an End of Course test.** These include: Algebra I, Biology, English I and II and U.S. History.

***On-line Reviews:** It is the student's responsibility to prepare for the exam and to read any materials and to complete any assignments required on the exam. This important information is available online at the Texas Tech website:

https://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttuisd/cbe_review_sheets.php

Registration: To register a student for the exam, please fill out the registration form and return it to your school counselor by the deadline above.

KINDERGARTEN ACCELERATION

Qualifications for Testing

The Texas Education Agency mandates that school districts establish their own process for grade level acceleration. The Kindergarten Acceleration Program for NCISD tests students wishing to skip kindergarten and be placed directly into first grade. In order to qualify for Kindergarten Acceleration, the student must meet these qualifications:

- The student **MUST** be 5 years of age on or before September 1.
- The student **MUST** be registered for kindergarten for the current school year in NCISD.

If both of these qualifications are met, then a parent/guardian may request that his/her child test for placement in first grade. To determine whether testing and possible placement in first grade are the best options, parents, students and staff should consider the following:

- Academic rigor of first grade
- Social and emotional impact
- Effect of skipping a grade level on the student's overall educational experience

New Caney ISD strongly encourages all learners to participate in kindergarten due to the social, developmental, emotional and academic benefits this grade level provides.

In order to advance to first grade, the student must score 80% or above on the district approved assessments in Reading/Writing and Math.

Test content is based on the [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills \(TEKS\)](#) for Kindergarten students.

Results will be sent to the principal of the school where the student is registered. The principal will contact you directly regarding your student's test scores.

If your child is recommended for acceleration, it will be on a probationary basis. Should the school or teacher feel it is in the best interest of the child to be placed back into kindergarten you will be contacted.



FORMS





New Caney ISD

PARENT NOMINATION FORM

GIFTED AND TALENTED for Grades 3-12

TALENT POOL for Grades K-2

Student's Name _____

Grade: _____ Campus: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

I, _____, nominate _____

for GT screening. I also understand this nomination does not mean my child will be placed automatically in the Gifted and Talented Program.

I give consent that my child be tested for the program.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

**Students in grades K through 2 placed in the Talent Pool will have opportunities to participate in Gifted and Talented activities and age appropriate learning experiences. The students in the Talent Pool will be retested at the end of second grade in order to be labeled as G/T.*



New Caney ISD

Programa de Dotados y Talentosos
Formulario de Nominación para Padres

Nombre del estudiante _____ Grado: _____

Yo, _____, el padre/guardián de _____,

nomino a mi hijo para el examen G/T. También entiendo que esta nominación significa que mi hijo(a) será colocado automáticamente en el Programa de Dotados y Talentosos. Doy consentimiento para que mi hijo(a) sea evaluado para el programa.

Firma del padre _____ Fecha: _____

***Por favor agregar documentos de apoyo (certificados, premios, et.)**

Cronograma para la Evaluación de GT

**Los estudiantes de Kinder que son nominados e identificados por pruebas participarán en un fondo de talento para grados K-2. Los estudiantes colocados en el fondo de talento tendrán oportunidades de participar en actividades G/T y aprendizaje de experiencias. Estos estudiantes serán examinados de nuevo al final de segundo grado para ser identificado como G/T.*



New Caney ISD
GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM
TEACHER NOMINATION FORM

Student's Name _____ *Grade:* _____

Date of Birth: _____ *Gender:* _____

I, _____, nominate _____

for GT screening. I also understand this nomination does not mean my student will be placed automatically in the Gifted and Talented Program.

Teacher Signature _____ *Date* _____

**Students in grades K-2 who are nominated and identified through testing will participate in a Talent Pool These students will have opportunities to participate in G/T activities and learning experiences. The students in the Talent Pool will be retested at the end of second grade in order to be labeled as G/T.*

Because I am nominating the student, I do not need to complete the GT checklist. Please give this student 10 points on the GT matrix.



New Caney ISD

Parental Permission to Test for GT

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child has been nominated for the gifted/talented program. This program is designed to meet the learning needs of New Caney's intellectually gifted learners. The State requires that school districts use assessment measurements from multiple sources to qualify students for the G/T program.

Students whose test scores identify them as gifted will begin receiving GT services. The GT program provides enrichment activities that allow gifted learners to apply their intellectual, artistic and creative skills.

If you want to give your child permission to be tested for the gifted and talented program, please complete the form below and return it to your child's teacher. We also would like for you to complete the attached questionnaire about your child.

CHILD'S NAME _____

CAMPUS: _____

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: _____ *DATE OF BIRTH* _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME:

_____*Mr.* _____*Mrs.* _____*Ms.* _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone numbers _____

I give permission for my child to be tested for the New Caney ISD Gifted/Talented Program:

_____ *Date:* _____

**Students in grades K-2 are identified as the Talent Pool, not Gifted and Talented. All second graders will be retested in the spring to be identified as GT.*



New Caney ISD

**PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN GT PROGRAM
FOR GRADES 3 THROUGH 12**

*Participation in the Gifted and Talented program is voluntary.
Before a student is provided these services, the district must obtain
the parent's written permission.*

*_____ Yes, I give permission for _____ to
participate in the New Caney ISD's GT program.*

*_____ No, I do not give permission for _____
to participate in New Caney ISD's GT program.*

Parent Signature and Date

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE FRONT OFFICE OF YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL.



New Caney ISD

New Caney Independent School District

Programa de Dotados y Talentosos

FORMULARIO DE PERMISO DE LOS PADRES

Participación en el programa de Dotados y Talentosos es voluntaria. Antes de que un estudiante reciba estos servicios, el distrito debe obtener permiso por escrito de los padres.

___ Sí, Doy permiso para que _____ participe en el programa de GT de New Caney ISD.

___ No, no doy permiso para que _____ participe en el programa de GT de New Caney ISD.

Firma del padre/representante y fecha

POR FAVOR DEVUELVA ESTE FORMULARIO

A LA OFICINA PRINCIPAL DE LA ESCUELA DE SU HIJO/A.



New Caney ISD

PARENT PERMISSION FORM for Talent Pool Program

Participation in the Talent Pool program is voluntary. Before a student is provided these services, the district must obtain the parent's written permission.

____ *Yes I give permission for _____ to participate in the program.*

____ *No, I do not give permission for _____ to participate in program.*

Parent Signature and Date

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE FRONT OFFICE OF YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL.



New Caney ISD

Programa de Piscina Talentosos

FORMULARIO DE PERMISO DE LOS PADRES

Participación en el programa de Piscina Talentosos es voluntaria. Antes de que un estudiante reciba estos servicios, el distrito debe obtener permiso por escrito de los padres.

___ ***Sí, Doy permiso para que _____ participe en el programa.***

___ ***No, no doy permiso para que _____ participe en el programa.***

Firma del padre/representante y fecha

POR FAVOR DEVUELVA ESTE FORMULARIO

A LA OFICINA PRINCIPAL DE LA ESCUELA DE SU HIJO/A.



New Caney ISD

FURLOUGH FORM FROM GT

_____ *Elementary Level* _____ *Secondary Level*

Furlough: An extended leave of absence from scheduled GT classes appropriate to students grade level.

STUDENT NAME: _____ ***ID NUMBER*** _____

GRADE: _____ ***TEACHER:*** _____ ***ROOM:*** _____

PARENT'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Street or P.O. # City Zip _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

DATE OF REQUEST: _____

REASON FOR FURLOUGH REQUEST: _____

I understand that in order to remain eligible for the NCISD GT Program my child is currently participating in, my child must re-enter the program on a full-time basis prior to one year from the date of this furlough. Admittance after that date will require identification evaluation according to district procedures.

SIGNATURE: _____

Parent or Guardian

Student

SIGNATURE: _____

Principal

COMMITTEE RESPONSE: *(Circle one as appropriate and explain.)*

Furlough: *Accepted / Rejected / Tabled pending further information*

TIME PERIOD OF FURLOUGH: _____

Notification of Student Status: _____

Parent Date: _____

Teacher Date: _____

Counselor & Attendance Clerk Date: _____

Place furlough form in student's gifted/talented folder.



NEW CANEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Petición para Furlough del

Programa Académico Avanzado de NCISD

_____ *Nivel de Primaria* _____ *Nivel de Secundaria*

Furlough: Una extendida ausencia a las clases programadas de GT apropiadas para el nivel de grado de estudiantes.

NOMBRE DEL ESTUDIANTE: _____ ***NÚMERO DE ID*** _____

GRADO: _____ ***MAESTRO:*** _____ ***CUARTO:*** _____

NOMBRE DEL PADRE: _____

DIRECCIÓN: _____

Calle o P.O. #, Ciudad, Código Postal _____

NÚMERO DE TELÉFONO: _____

FECHA DE PETICIÓN: _____

RAZÓN PARA PETICIÓN DE FURLOUGH: _____

Yo entiendo que para permanecer elegible para el Programa GT de NCISD en el cual mi hijo está actualmente participando, mi hijo debe re-entrar al programa en base de tiempo completo previo a un año de la fecha de este furlough. El ser admitido después de esa fecha requerirá evaluación de acuerdo a los procedimientos del distrito.

FIRMA: _____

Padre o Guardián

Estudiante

FIRMA: _____

Director

RESPUESTA DEL COMITÉ: *(Circule una como sea apropiado y explique.)*

Furlough: *Aceptado / Rechazada / Presentada y en espera de más información*

PERIODO DE TIEMPO DE FURLOUGH: _____

Notificación de Estado del Estudiante: ____ *Padre* **Fecha:** _____

____ *Maestro(a)* **Fecha:** _____

____ *Consejero & Oficinista a cargo de la Asistencia* **Fecha:** _____

Coloque el formulario de furlough en el folder del estudiante de dotados /talentosos.



New Caney ISD

EXIT FORM FOR GT

Student performance in the Gifted and Talented Program is monitored for satisfactory progress. Before a campus recommends removal from the program, a conference with the parent/guardian teacher, and campus administrators must be held. Students must have an opportunity to work on a plan of action and a meeting must be held to review progress. Once the second conference takes place, information will be shared with the selection committee to determine the best placement for the student.

If a parent or guardian requests removal from the program, a written request from the parent must be submitted to the campus counselor. The selection committee shall meet with the parent and student before honoring the request.

Exiting from the GT Program is permanent. Students must complete the entire screening process to be considered for re-admittance to the program.

Student Name _____ **Date of Request** _____

Campus Level _____ **Current Grade** _____

Check reason for exit:

____ **1. Poor academic performance**

____ **2. Parent Request**

____ **3. Non-Enrollment in at least 2 Pre-AP/AP/Dual Credit courses. One of the courses must be in English Language Arts or Mathematics.**

Date of Exit: _____

Signatures of GT Campus Committee Members:

Please attach evidence of poor academic performance or written request from parent.

(Place exit form in student's gifted/talented folder.)



New Caney ISD

APPEAL of GT PLACEMENT DECISION

(Level 1: Submit to your campus counselor.)

A student who does not qualify to participate in the GT program at either the elementary or the secondary level may appeal the decision of the GT Committee at the campus. The appeal process is designed to ensure that quality and appropriate decisions are made in the best interest of students and according to district guidelines. Additional testing may be required based on an appeal but additional testing is not guaranteed.

Student Name _____ ID _____

Campus _____ Grade Level _____ Date _____

Name of individual making the appeal _____

Phone Number _____ Alternate Phone Number _____

By making this Level 1 Appeal, you are saying that you disagree with the GT Committee's decision to not recommend your student for participation in the GT program.

NCISD GT services are designed to serve the academic needs of learners who are performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment or show the potential for a remarkably high level of accomplishment. Please state your rationale for the appeal including any specific evidence that supports your claim that the participation decision for your student should be reconsidered. (You may use the back and/or attach additional pages.)

Date of the GT Committee Review: _____ Circle one of the following:

Overturn the original decision and recommend participation in the GT program.

Confirm the original decision without further testing.

Confirm the original decision after further testing or data collection.



New Caney ISD

APPEAL of GT PLACEMENT DECISION

(Level 2: Submit to the NCISD Director of Advanced Academics)

A learner who does not qualify for participation in gifted and talented services at either the elementary or the secondary level may appeal the decision of the GT Committee at the campus. If the parent/guardian is not satisfied with the Level 1 Appeal made to the GTC, he/she may make a Level 2 Appeal to the Director of Advanced Academics. Additional testing may be required on a Level 2 Appeal, but additional testing is not guaranteed.

Student name _____ Student ID _____

Campus _____ Current Grade Level: _____ Date _____

Phone Number _____ Alternate Phone Number _____

By making this appeal, you are saying that you disagree with the GTC's original participation and the GTC's Level 1 Appeal decision.

Explain your rationale for disagreeing with the previous participation decisions:

What further evidence do you think should be considered that may change the original decision?

Date of Director of Advanced Academics Review _____ Circle one of the following:

Overtake the original decision and recommend participation in the GT program.

Confirm the original decision without further testing.

Confirm the original decision after further testing or data collection.



New Caney ISD

REGISTRATION FOR ACCELERATION TESTING

Fall Testing: October 3-7 (grades K-12) **Deadline:** September 9

Mid-Year Testing: Jan. 9-13 (grades 9-12) **Deadline:** Dec. 9

End of Year Testing: May 15-19 (grades 6-12) **Deadline:** April 14

Summer Testing: July 16-19 (grades K-12) **Deadline:** May 26

Name of Student: _____ *Name of*

Campus: _____

3. *Student ID #* _____

4. *Current Grade* (Circle one:) K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

5. *Grade or Subject wanting to skip* _____

(Students may not take a credit by exam test for any subject that has an End of Course test. These include: Algebra I, Biology, English I and II and U.S. History.)

6. *Parent/Guardian Name* _____

7. *Mailing Address:* _____

8. *Telephone:* Home _____ Cell _____

School Personnel Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Note: Texas Tech University Acceleration Exams require the highest of academic skills in all subjects. School personnel permission is not required for testing. The district purchases all tests and there is not a charge to the student. *On-line Reviews: It is the student's responsibility to prepare for the exam and to read any materials and to complete any assignments required on the exam. This important information is available online at the Texas Tech website: https://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttuisd/cbe_review_sheets.php