



**Abbott Independent School  
District  
Gifted and Talented Handbook  
2021-2022**

**GIFTED AND TALENTED HANDBOOK  
2021-2022  
BOARD POLICY EHBB (LOCAL)  
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*Abbott ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, economic status, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.*

The Abbott Independent School District serves gifted and talented students who are currently identified in grades K-12. One way in which the district attempts to include as many students as possible in all learning processes is to constantly increase our capacity to accommodate the needs of all learners. The Abbott ISD provides opportunities for all students to achieve at high levels; however, we recognize the need to provide additional instruction for those students whose performance indicates the need for a differentiated curriculum. Therefore, the emphasis is on enriched and exceptional learning activities in the four core academic areas in which the learning activities are designed to foster creative and critical thinking as well as independent study.

## **GIFTED & TALENTED DEFINITION**

In 1977, the Texas Legislature passed its first legislation concerning the education of gifted/talented (G/T) students. In 1979, state funds for providing services to G/T children were made available, but providing such services was optional for school districts. In 1987, the Texas Legislature mandated that all school districts must identify and serve G/T students at all grade levels. In 1990, the *Texas State Plan for the Education of the Gifted/Talented Students* (State Plan) was adopted by the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) that included a commitment to high-level learning opportunities for G/T learners.

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM GOALS**

The goals for the Abbott ISD Gifted and Talented Program are to ensure that the students are provided opportunities that promote rigor, depth and complexity, of appropriately challenging learning experiences in math, language arts, science and social studies with interdisciplinary connections. The Abbott ISD program objectives for the gifted and talented students are aligned with the Texas State Plan for Gifted Students' Goals.

## **STATE GOAL FOR SERVICES FOR GIFTED/TALENTED STUDENTS**

Students who participate in services designed for gifted/talented students will 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 graduates who have participated in services for gifted/talented students will have produced products and performances of professional quality as part of their program services.

## **NOMINATION**

Students may be nominated for the gifted and talented program at any time by teachers, counselors, parents, or other interested persons.

## **PARENTAL CONSENT**

Written parental consent shall be obtained before any special testing or individual assessment is conducted as part of the screening and identification process. All student information collected during the screening and identification process shall be an educational record, subject to the protections set out in policies at FL.

## **IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA**

Criteria to identify gifted and talented students shall be established in the Board-approved program for the gifted and talented. The criteria shall be specific to the state definition of gifted and talented and shall ensure the fair assessment of students with special needs, such as the culturally different, the economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities. Listed below are criteria used by the District when evaluating potential gifted and talented students:

- Teacher Questionnaire
- Parent Questionnaire
- Grades
- Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test 2 (NNAT2) Evaluation System
- IStation Reading and Math
- Accelerated Reading
- TPRI Data
- STAAR Scores
- Student Essays

Data collected through both objective and subjective assessments shall be measured against the criteria approved by the Board to determine individual eligibility for the program. 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 available student work products.

## **SELECTION**

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. The committee shall be composed of at least three professional educators who have received training in the nature and needs of gifted students and shall be established for the District.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students: Students must score at least 85% or more on the NNAT2 percentile rank, and/or 115 on the Naglieri Ability Index.

## **NOTIFICATION**

Parents and students shall be notified in writing of selection 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.

## **REASSESSMENTS**

The District shall not perform routine reassessments.

## **TRANSFER STUDENTS**

When a student identified as gifted by a previous school district transfers into the District, the student's records shall be reviewed by the selection committee to determine if placement in the District's program for gifted and talented students is appropriate.

The committee shall make its determination within 30 days of the student's enrollment in the District and shall base its decision on the transferred records, observation reports of District teachers who instruct the student, and student and parent conferences.

## **FURLOUGH**

A student who is unable to maintain satisfactory performance within the structure of the gifted and talented program may be placed on furlough by the selection committee. The purpose of such a furlough is to provide the student an opportunity to attain performance goals established by the selection committee. A furlough also may be granted at the request of the student and/or parent.

A student may be furloughed for a period of time deemed appropriate by the selection committee. At the end of the furlough, the student's progress shall be reassessed, and the student may reenter the gifted program, be removed from the program, or be placed on another furlough.

## **EXIT PROVISIONS**

Student performance in the program shall be monitored. A student shall be removed from the program at any time the selection committee determines it is in the student's best interest. If a student or parent requests removal from the program, the selection committee shall meet with the parent and student before honoring the request.

## **APPEALS**

A parent or student may appeal any final decision of the selection committee regarding selection for or removal from the gifted program. Appeals shall be made first to the selection committee. Any subsequent appeals shall be made in accordance with FNG(LOCAL) beginning at Level Two.

## **PROGRAM EVALUATION**

The gifted program shall be evaluated periodically, and evaluation information shall be shared with Board members, administrators, teachers, counselors, students in the gifted and talented program, and the community.

## **COMMUNITY AWARENESS**

The District shall ensure that information about the District's gifted and talented program is available to parents and community members and that they have an opportunity to develop an understanding of and support for the program.

## **GIFTED POLICIES TIMELINE**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Nominations</u>	<u>Screening</u>	<u>Parent Notification</u>	<u>Services Begin</u>
Kinder	Due by Dec. 12	Jan. – Feb.	End of Feb.	March 1
1-12	Due by Jan. 30	Feb. – May	Beginning of May	Next Fall