

## **Manor ISD Gifted and Talented Advanced Learner Program GTAL 2008-2009**

*“Gifted and talented student” means 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. Education Code 29.121*

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### ***Who may nominate students and when?***

Students in grades 1-12 may be nominated at any time of the school year. Students may be nominated by any adult: parent, relative, neighbor, community member -or peer with an awareness of a student’s extreme potential and need for additional services. Nomination forms in both English and Spanish may be requested through the campus counselors and campus GTAL coordinators, and may be accessed online at <http://www.manorisd.net/gtal/index.php>

Kindergarten students begin the nomination process in November and formal testing occurs in January. Parents will be notified by February 15th of student qualification. Formal services for Kindergarten GTAL services must begin, in accordance with State guidelines, by March 1.

#### ***How are students evaluated for GTAL services within Manor ISD?***

Each campus houses a required GTAL committee, comprised of the campus coordinator, the district coordinator, an administrative representative, and GTAL qualified instructors. The GTAL committee reviews the evaluation criteria through a matrix of indicators including:

- **Teacher and parent questionnaires – i.e. GATES, Slocumb-Payne Teacher Perception Inventory**
- **CogAT Assessment – a cognitive abilities assessment of verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal abilities**
- **Academic performance**
- **TELPAS, TPRI, ELL and bilingual assessment/observation indicators**
- **TAKS/ACT/SAT/PSAT and other standardized test results**
- **Student portfolios/student products**

#### ***How are GTAL students served in accordance with State guidelines within MISD?***

Students are served in core areas –math, science, social studies, and ELA- by **GT Qualified** instructors who have 30 hours in gifted education as delineated in 19TAC89.2(1) and have annual updates of six hours of professional development in gifted education [19TAC89.2(2)]. Students served in the general classroom still need to work together with groups (minimum of 3) of gifted students, work independently, and work with other students during the school day and the entire school year. (Ref: 19TAC 89.3(1,3); TSP Section 2, 2.1A, 2.2A)

Teachers without the required training who provide instruction and services that are part of the gifted/talented program complete the 30-hour training requirement within one semester. Administrators and counselors who have authority for program decisions have a minimum of six hours of professional development that includes nature and needs of gifted/talented students and program options. (Ref: 19 TAC 89.2)

Manor ISD GTAL elementary students also engage in **MINDSPILL**, a weekly session of team and independent studies that allow global research, problem solving, interdisciplinary studies and concept based learning evidenced in student products and presentations, i.e. Project Based Learning. Students present/defend their studies in May at individual campus **MINDSPILL SYMPOSIUM** events.

***What are acceptable examples of GT learning opportunities that emphasize content from the four core areas and are included in the regular school day?***

- **Interdisciplinary curriculum**
- **Special units from the core areas**
- **Differentiation/compacting within core instruction**
- **Acceleration in a discipline that is a particular area of strength**
- **Student choices in products/projects that evidence mastery of objectives**
- **Concept based learning extensions**
- **Advanced Placement (AP) classes with appropriate modifications for GT students**
- **Independent Study courses (in elementary, students may be allowed to pursue specific areas of interest through independent study even though there is not a specific course such as those at secondary level).**
- **Dual/concurrent enrollment in college coursework**
- **Mentorship programs**

While it is true that any ONE of the above learning opportunities may not constitute a gifted program, it may be one activity in an “array” or “menu” of options that are available. (Ref: 19TAC 89.3(3); TSP Section 2.2.1A, 3.1A)

Opportunities in all four content areas should be available at each grade level. Students should be served based on individual strengths, and should not be required to participate in all four core areas. (Ref: 19TAC 89.3(3); TSP Section 3, 3.1A)

***What are examples of possible after school enrichment opportunities for GT students?***

**Manor ISD encourages the participation of all students, and GTAL students in after school enrichment opportunities that serve gifted needs, such as:**

- **UIL Academic Activities**
- **Science, History, Math, Literature *Clubs and Activities***
- **MISD Chess Initiative**
- **Fine Arts Enrichment Sessions**
- **Clubs, organizations, or activities which allow leadership development/opportunities.**
- **Academic Decathlon**
- **MATHCOUNTS**
- **Technology Activities**

***What services are offered if a student who was identified as GT in a former district enrolls in MISD?***

Students who were GT identified in a previous district will be reviewed upon enrollment into Manor ISD for local GTAL qualification. Students’ records should include specific information regarding the measures and instruments used for prior qualification. Within 30 days, the campus GTAL committee determines if placement in the MISD GTAL program is appropriate. Current classroom teacher observation reports and student and parent interviews are included in the review process. Any GT identified students enrolling in MISD who do not have specific information regarding the measures and instruments used for prior qualification will be offered immediate assessment through the existing district quantitative and qualitative measures.

**Additional information regarding MISD GTAL services is available at <http://www.manorisd.net/gtal/index.php> or by contacting campus GTAL Coordinators, or Lisa Barrett Johnson - MISD Advanced Academics Coordinator at 278-4815 or 944-5157.**

