



## Manor ISD Gifted and Talented Advanced Learners Program – GTAL

### *Program Design*

The Manor ISD GTAL program emphasizes the identification of gifted and talented students beginning in kindergarten. The program offers instructional services in core academic areas for all grades through the use of differentiated curriculum within the instructional classroom. Instructional strategies promote critical thinking and reasoning abilities, problem solving skills, independent studies, and creative product development. Students identified as GTAL are served by classroom instructors who are GT qualified through 30 or more hours in Gifted and Talented professional development, and remain current in their qualification by engaging in 6 additional GT professional development hours each year.

The district creates opportunities for students to work with their academic peers, their intellectual peers, and their social peers through the use of flexible grouping. GTAL students receive pull-out enrichment opportunities which engage students in project based learning through MINDSPILL, an independent study of choice.

The district encourages all GTAL students to participate in University Interscholastic League academic events and school enrichment opportunities such as MINDSPILL, book clubs, Project Mustang, and campus organizations. Grades six through twelve are encouraged to engage in rigorous courses within their areas of strength, participate in Pre-AP and Advanced Placement Courses, dual credit college courses, project based learning activities, and electives which provide students with growth opportunities in art, creativity, and leadership.

### *Identification and Assessment*

Students may be nominated for GTAL qualification by parents, relatives, teachers, community members, peers, or themselves. Nominations may occur throughout the year. Any individual nominating a student is encouraged to attend an awareness session presented by the District Advanced Academics Coordinator. Sessions will be scheduled throughout the year. Information regarding the nomination process is available on each campus by contacting the Gifted and Talented Coordinator listed in this handbook. Kindergarten students will talent pool in Fall and experience formal assessment administration in January. Specific services for GTAL identified kindergarten students begin no later than March 1. Formal assessments will be scheduled on campuses in both Fall and Spring for students in grades 1-12.

Students are assessed through a matrix including both quantitative and qualitative measures. All indicators are reviewed by the campus GTAL committee, which is comprised of instructors and administrators current in GT training in the Nature and Needs of Gifted Students. Parents are notified in writing of results and encouraged to conference with the campus GTAL Coordinator.

### Transfers

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 assessment through the existing district quantitative and qualitative measures.

### Furloughs

Students who are unable to maintain satisfactory performance in the program shall be placed on furlough by the GTAL campus committee. The purpose of such a furlough is to provide the student an opportunity to attain performance goals. A furlough, or leave, may be requested by the student or parents/guardians as well. A student may be furloughed for a period of time deemed appropriate by the campus committee. At the end of the furlough, the student's progress shall be reassessed and the student may reenter the 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 in writing removal from the program, the selection committee shall meet with the parent and student before honoring the request.

### Appeals

Parents or students may appeal any final decision of the selection committee regarding selection for or removal from the gifted program. Appeal shall be made first to the campus GTAL committee. Any subsequent appeals shall be made in accordance with FNG (Local).