

Gifted and Talented Program Information 2023-2024

Waller ISD Gifted & Talented Program Referrals

Waller ISD will accept referrals for students to be evaluated for the Gifted and Talented (GT) Program at various dates within the **2023-2024** school year, depending on the student's grade level and status: new-to-the-district or currently enrolled.

What is Giftedness?

According to the Texas Education Code 29.121, gifted and talented refers to a child who performs or shows the potential of performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment. The child also exhibits an unusual capacity for leadership or high-performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area.

How are Students Identified as Gifted and Talented (GT)?

GT assessments contain verbal, nonverbal, and quantitative measures that assesses cognitive development, the ability to learn new tasks, and to problem solve. Once data is collected, the information is then submitted to a committee, who has received training in gifted education, to determine student placement in the gifted and talented program. A letter containing testing results will be sent home to the parent/guardian of all students who were evaluated. The parent/guardian of an identified student who is eligible to receive services must sign a permission statement for services to begin.

ASSESSMENT TIMELINE

REFERRAL WINDOW DATES	DESCRIPTION/ACTION
<p style="text-align: center;">WINDOW 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New to the District ➤ September 18-29 	<p>Students in grades 1st-12th, who are <u>new</u> to WISD, may be referred by a parent/guardian, teacher, counselor, or administrator for testing. (This window also includes students who are new to the district and have been previously placed in a GT program but lack assessment documentation.) Referred students are screened using an abilities assessment. Students who score within the gifted potential range will then be further assessed using a full battery abilities assessment. Services will begin November 13, 2023.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">WINDOW 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kindergarten ➤ December 4-15 	<p>Kindergarten students in WISD may be referred by a parent/guardian, teacher, counselor, or administrator for testing. Referred students are screened using an abilities assessment. Students who score within the gifted potential range will then be further assessed using a full battery abilities assessment. Kindergarten students identified as GT will begin services February 26, 2024.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">WINDOW 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Currently Enrolled Students ➤ March 25-April 5 	<p>Students in grades 1-11 who are currently enrolled in WISD may be referred by a parent/guardian, teacher, counselor, or administrator for testing. Referred students are screened using an abilities assessment. Students who score within the gifted potential range will then be further assessed using a full battery abilities assessment. Students in grades 1st-11th, who are identified as GT will begin services the following school year. (<i>Students who tested earlier this school year may not test again.</i>)</p>

To refer a WISD student to the GT Program, contact his/her school counselor listed below.

Counselor	Campus	Email Address
Maria Delamora	Fields Store ES	mdelamora@wallerisd.net
Alistare Turner Mary Jenkins	Holleman ES	aturner@wallerisd.net mjenkins1@wallerisd.net
Kassi Lang	Jones ES	klang@wallerisd.net
Katheryn Netz	Roberts Road ES	knetz@wallerisd.net
Betsy Hashaw Lori Puckett	Turlington ES	bhashaw@wallerisd.net lpuckett@wallerisd.net
Melanie Kocian	Schultz JH	mkocian@wallerisd.net
Christy Smith	Schultz JH	cvsmith@wallerisd.net
Katherine Friedel	Waller JH	kfriedel1@wallerisd.net
Fon'shall Watts	Waller JH	fwatts@wallerisd.net
Tamara Zingelmann	Waller HS	tzingelmann@wallerisd.net