



Information Item

Date: February 10, 2025

Division: Learning & Teaching

Subject: Gifted & Talented Program Update

Background Information:

- An annual update is provided to the Board of Trustees each year to share progress related to G/T Services and department goals for continuous improvement.
- The G/T Services department continues to focus on the following:
 - Quality Curriculum Development
 - Equitable Identification
 - Professional Learning
 - Family & Community Engagement
- Elementary continues to administer universal assessments and screeners. In grade 2 all students are given the three Naglieri General Ability Tests (Verbal, Nonverbal, Quantitative) during the fall semester to identify students with exceptional ability or potential at specific grade levels. Results are used to determine those students who meet criteria for additional evaluations related to gifted/talented (G/T) services. Additionally, all grade 4 students take the single Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test in January.
 - The test items consist of questions presented using diagrams, numbers, and pictures so that there is minimal reliance on academic skills and ensures that the test items can be solved regardless of the language used by the student.
 - The need for a student to answer questions verbally or in a written format is eliminated by using a visual multiple-choice response format.
- In the 24-25 budget, our state allotment for G/T-specific spending amounted to \$951,560. We invest significantly beyond that to ensure students receive the resources and experiences they need to thrive. At a minimum, we continue to be underfunded by \$3 million to implement the district G/T program.
- To meet state requirements, a school district may not limit the number of students identified as gifted/talented or served under the district's program for gifted/talented students.

Administrative Consideration:

- Currently, 5,412 students receive G/T services in LISD.
- A new curriculum is being developed for use with 2nd-5th grade students during pull-out instructional time. This is the G/T service delivery where gifted students receive specialized instruction and enrichment from the campus G/T Facilitator. New push-in lessons are also being created in grades K-2. These lessons are delivered by the campus G/T Facilitator in all general education classrooms on a rotating basis throughout the school year and are designed to expose all students to more critical and creative thinking. At the secondary level, the Learning Enrichment Academic Program (LEAP) continues to adjust to schedule changes by refining learning goals and further developing a robust curriculum for 2025-2026.

- Program practices continue to prioritize, examine and improve identification practices that will increase representation of district GT students. Targeted professional learning, increased parental communication, use of additional assessments, improved watch list monitoring, and expansion of the screener have yielded positive growth in identification.
- LISD staff participated in over 7,000 hours of professional development related to G/T services and instructional practices from Summer to Fall 2024. Three hundred sixty-one LISD staff members have also met TEA G/T foundational training requirements since Summer 2024. This increased training bolsters instruction for gifted learners. Professional learning also strengthens the knowledge of gifted characteristics that teachers use when referring students for gifted services.
- Online parent resources have yielded increased interaction with the community. These resources inform parents of the signs of giftedness, explain the referral and transfer processes, and identify elements of the elementary and secondary service models.