

Gifted & Talented Professional Learning Plan

In Dickinson ISD, we aim to provide quality services for all students by ensuring teachers are highly qualified and highly trained to meet the needs of each of their students. For teachers of the gifted, there is specific training that is required by the district and the state to ensure this special population of students and their particular needs are well-met. These qualifications are a prerequisite to teaching gifted children.

In accordance with state law §89.2, Section 4 of the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students, and **DISD board policy DMA (LEGAL)**, **Dickinson ISD shall ensure that:**

- (1) prior to assignment in the program, teachers who provide instruction and services that are a part of the program for gifted students have a minimum of 30 hours of staff development that includes nature and needs of gifted/talented students, assessing student needs, and curriculum and instruction for gifted students;*
- (2) teachers without training required in paragraph (1) of this section who provide instruction and services that are part of the gifted/talented program must complete the 30-hour training requirement within one semester;*
- (3) teachers who provide instruction and services that are a part of the program for gifted students receive a minimum of six hours annually of professional development in gifted education; and*
- (4) 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.*

Gifted and Talented Teacher Qualifications

Recognizing the Teacher Knowledge & Skill Standards for Gifted and Talented Education published by the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), learning opportunities for GT professionals in Dickinson ISD will continue to focus on the five subject strands of gifted education, or the **GT 30 Foundational Hours**:

1. Nature and Needs of Gifted Children (**NN**)
2. Identification/Assessment of Gifted Students (**ID**)
3. The Social and Emotional Needs of the Gifted (**SE**)
4. Differentiated Curriculum (**CI**) (**DC**)
5. Creativity/Instructional Strategies for Gifted Children (**CI**) (**DC**)

Teachers in Dickinson ISD are qualified to teach gifted students by demonstrating they have met one of the following criteria:

- **GT Training:** Teachers who have successfully completed the initial 30 foundational hours in gifted education are considered GT Trained only, and eligible to teach gifted students. Teachers who are trained are also encouraged to take the TExES GT Supplemental Exam for certification. To maintain this eligibility, teacher must complete 6 hours of GT training each year between June 1 and December 31 of each school year.
- **GT Endorsement:** Teachers who have obtained a GT Endorsement through extensive hours of graduate/post-baccalaureate study in gifted education have received an "Endorsement in Gifted/Talented" though a college or university and such recognition is reflected on his/her state teaching certificate. (As of 2005, the GT Endorsement in no longer offered.) Graduate courses in gifted can be considered in lieu of GT sessions, provided teacher submits graduate transcripts of study to Educational Services Department for review and approval. Teachers possessing a GT Endorsement are eligible to teach gifted students. To maintain this eligibility, teacher must complete 6 hours of GT training each year between June 1 and December 31 of each school year he/she is to teach GT students.

- **GT Certification:** Teachers who have taken and mastered the TExES GT Supplemental exam are “GT Certified” and such recognition is reflected on his/her state teaching certificate. GT Certified teachers are eligible to teach gifted students. To maintain this eligibility, teacher must complete 6 hours of GT training each year between June 1 and December 31 of each school year he/she is to teach GT students.

Teachers are expected to keep all original GT Professional Learning certificates as proof of eligibility. It is also important for campus administrative staff to monitor compliance. Accurate professional development records in gifted education must be maintained for each campus teacher of the gifted in Eduphoria. Teachers must have a documented record of sessions attended, the subject strand of each, and the number of clock hours earned. All professional development records with Certificates of Completion for courses/sessions taken outside of DISD must be electronically entered and uploaded to “Workshop” in Eduphoria for credit approval.

GT/Advanced Academic Professional Learning Expectations

Teachers in Dickinson ISD are expected to continue their professional growth in their content and in their knowledge of gifted learners and to move through a continuum of targeted professional learning experiences. This progression of learning encourages seasoned teachers of the gifted to expand their knowledge and develop as GT Leaders. The following is a guideline of suggested professional learning experiences that teachers should consider when setting learning goals:

<p>Level 1 (1-3 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GT Foundational Training (30 Hours) • Content Training (APSI, NMSI, Pre-AP) • GT Instructional Strategies • Obtain GT Certification through SBEC
<p>Level 2 (4-6 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Content Training (APSI, NMSI, Pre-AP) • Advanced GT Instructional Strategies • Advanced GT Student Needs • Campus Leader for GT/Advanced Academics • Campus PLC Leader for GT/Advanced Academics • Membership/Active participation in GT Organizations • GT Curriculum Writing/Revising
<p>Level 3 (7+ years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced GT Student Needs • AP Reader or AP/PAP Consultant or Presenter • College Coursework in GT or Advanced Academics • District Leader for GT/Advanced Academics PLC or APVT • Presenter for GT Professional Learning • Leadership in GT Organizations • Leadership for GT Curriculum Writing/Revising • Leadership/Participant in District GT Planning, Design Teams, or Advisory Committees • Independent Research or Projects in GT topics

GT Professional Learning

- Professional Learning sessions/courses offered by the Dickinson ISD, Region 4 (Gifted education/advanced placement-curriculum), Southeast Texas Area Cooperative, and Harris County Department of Education (HCDE-Gifted & Talented) meet the core criteria for professional learning in gifted education.
- All session/course certificates that are endorsed by the Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented (TAGT) will be accepted.
- Sessions/Courses outside the field of gifted education that are not endorsed by the Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented (TAGT) must be reviewed by the Educational Services Department prior to attendance or

publication to ascertain the session's discussion of the core competencies of gifted education for the appropriate clock hours. The questions that follow will be used during the review process:

- Does the session description tell how this training relates to the core competencies of gifted education? Does the content of the session relate to at least one of the core areas required by the state? (Nature & Needs, Identification/Assessment or Curriculum for the Gifted)
- Has the presenter obtained the required 30 hours of GT training? Has the presenter worked with gifted students? Will the presenter be able to relate this training to the GT classroom?
- Is there proof that the content of the training is supported by research in gifted education?
- How do the strategies help the gifted student? Are there concrete examples presented in this training on how the strategies can be used with gifted students?
- Does this training meet the criteria of the Gifted Core Knowledge Areas and Teacher Competencies? (*See Appendix I: Core Knowledge and Teacher Competencies*)

All sessions offered in DISD can be found in Eduphoria under "Gifted and Talented" course category. In addition, sessions approved for GT foundational or update credit offered outside of DISD are listed below. Sessions/courses not appearing in the table below can be submitted to the Educational Services Department for GT credit consideration. Sessions must demonstrate a continued training focus in the "Core Knowledge Areas and Teacher Competencies" Guidelines (*See Appendix I: Core Knowledge and Teacher Competencies*).

Please email all requests for GT credit consideration *prior to registration* to Julie Abram, Director of GT/Advanced Academics and Secondary Programs, at jabram@dickinsonisd.org. Notice of GT credit award shall be determined within five business days.