



Early Access to Educational Services, K-1

The following procedure will be used to grant early admission to educational services of a highly advanced gifted child. Under HB 1021, this child is defined as academically gifted, socially and emotionally mature, in the top 2% of the gifted peer group, motivated to learn, ready for advanced placement and has exhausted the resources of preschool or home schooling. Children must meet these age requirements by the first day of school: 4 years of age for Kindergarten; 5 years of age for First Grade.

Step 1

A child is referred by a parent, teacher or school administrator to the GATE Director. The Director schedules a meeting with parents and teacher(s) to inform parents of the process and the elements of a referral portfolio which may include:

Observable Student Behaviors

1. Letter from parent requesting early entrance to Kindergarten or 1st grade
2. Letter of recommendation from preschool/kindergarten teacher
3. Any supporting anecdotal information
4. Available test data/observational data

Student Performance data or work samples

1. PALs data
2. Ages and Stages data
3. Social Emotional Competency data
4. Everyday Math data
5. Get It, Got It, Go data

Step 2

The Director and parent review the child's portfolio with the Preschool Director and a GT representative. A decision is made whether to formally assess the child and an assessment plan is made.

Step 3

Assessment is completed within 30 business days by the following personnel:

School Psychologist: Cognitive Assessment (DAS, K-ABC, or UNIT)

Preschool Teacher(s): Social Emotional Competency Scale, PALS, Ages and Stages Scale.

District Coordinator/GT Rep: Torrance Test of Creative Thinking

Step 4

Assessments are reviewed and a decision is made collaboratively with teacher, GATE Director, and School Director to determine if the child is Gifted based on the following criteria:

A score of 97%ile or above in a subtest or composite on a cognitive assessment

A score of 97%ile or above on a standardized achievement assessment

Step 5

If a child is identified as Highly Gifted, a placement decision will be made and an Advanced Learning Plan will be written collaboratively with parents, classroom teacher, GATE representative and School Director. This plan will include a transition goal for the first year of early access and clearly articulate how parents, teachers and administrators will positively and systematically support the child.

Step 6

Informal ongoing progress monitoring with school personnel and parents will be scheduled monthly. Formal monitoring conferences will be held once per semester.