



Dear Parents,

As you request testing for your child please look over the attached charts explaining the difference between high achievers, gifted learners and creative learners. Testing is very rigorous and time consuming for your child. They are pulled from the regular education classes for up to 6 hours over the testing period. The students are required to take a standardized, timed test which is very often unfamiliar. As a teacher, facilitator, and a parent my wish is that your child get the best possible education and benefits our school has to offer. Luckily, you are at an amazing campus where all teachers differentiate instruction to meet each child's individual educational needs. I am eager to test any and all LEAP candidates, but please look over the charts and see in which category your child falls. Are they a high achiever, one who works hard to achieve, does an amazing job in class and makes straight A's? Are they a creative learner, they see exceptions, daydream, and are never finished with possibilities? Are they a gifted learner, selectively engaged, enjoy self directed learning and may not be motivated by grades. LISD tests for and serves gifted learners in the LEAP program. Before having your child pulled from class and missing concepts while testing, please look over the charts and see if you feel your child falls into the category of gifted learner. All of our students at Hicks are gifted in many areas they are smart, bright, athletic, creative, innovative and great citizens of our community. If LEAP is the service they qualify for I am happy to help facilitate them in their learning process. If LEAP is not a service they require we have many other amazing programs to enrich and advance their education.

Thank you,

Lori Yokawa

Tom Hicks

LEAP Facilitator

LEAP: Frequently Asked Questions

What is LEAP [Learning Enrichment Academic Program]?

LEAP is a program for the potentially gifted and talented student in the area of general intellectual ability.

Who is served by LEAP?

There are many kinds of giftedness but the LEAP program only identifies and serves children demonstrating giftedness revealed by learning-potential tests, achievement tests, and observed characteristics.

How will my child qualify?

6 of the 8 indicators collected on the student must fall at the 96th percentile or above on *objective*, standardized tests designed to measure learning potential and achievement and on *subjective* measures (observation).

How is testing done?

Elementary: If you give permission to test, your child will be pulled out of the regular classroom at times set by the teacher and the campus LEAP facilitator. It will take a total of approximately 4-6 hours to complete all of the tests. Testing will not be conducted all at one time and will be carried out in no more than one-hour segments.

Secondary: Testing may be conducted at the student's school. Testing is also periodically scheduled at a central site for interested students. Contact the office of Advanced Academic Programs for those dates.

When and how is the decision about placement made?

After the tests are complete, the facilitator will compile a data sheet (profile). She/he will then send the information through a district screening committee for placement or non-placement recommendation based on the criteria explained above.

How long does all this take?

The facilitator on each campus is also a full-time teacher. Testing is secondary to the teacher's classroom responsibilities. After the facilitator has received the completed referral folder, it will take several weeks to do the testing. Then the student data must go through a district screening committee that meets once every six weeks.

If recommended, when will my child be served?

You will receive a letter informing you of the committee decision. Then you will receive a permission to serve form and a parent handbook. As soon as the permission to serve form is returned, your child will be scheduled to come to LEAP classes with other students from their grade level.

How would my child be served in the elementary program?

The elementary LEAP program is a pullout program in the Lewisville school district. This means your child will be "pulled out" of their classroom at a scheduled time each week. Students will be pulled from two - ten hours per week, depending on their grade level. Students are not missing instruction in the regular classroom.

What do they do in the LEAP class?

LEAP is a thinking skills program. It is not an acceleration program. The students have lessons and activities that are designed to nurture and build the potential they have demonstrated. The four major goals of the LEAP program are:

1. to be aware of the student's own unique potential and learning style in order to develop abilities for the betterment of self and society;
2. to utilize higher level thinking skills that develop intellectual curiosity and critical, creative, and productive thinking;
3. to understand and apply the problem-solving process in a cooperative group setting through analysis and evaluation of real-life situations; and,
4. to develop advanced reference skills for using multiple concepts and resources in synthesizing an elaborate product.

Is there anything done for an identified child in the regular classroom?

The LEAP program provides materials, cluster teacher training, and information for the regular classroom teachers to assist them in providing a differentiated curriculum. It is each classroom teacher's responsibility to meet the individual academic needs of the g/t child in his/her classroom.

How would my child be served in the secondary program?

Middle School: All identified LEAP students, grades 6 – 8, will be enrolled in a self-contained homogeneously grouped LEAP class per grade level. This class will be identified as LEAP. The class period may not be scheduled for a time less than any other core curricular class. The student does not miss any other class while in the LEAP take World Studies I (World Geography and English); 10th graders take World Studies II (World History and English); 11th graders take United States Studies (US History and English); 12th graders are enrolled in British Studies. The 9th and 10th grade classes are pre-AP courses and the 11th and 12th grade classes are AP courses. This provides students the opportunity to prepare for and earn college credit through the Advanced Placement exams. (See the campus course description guide for complete description.)

Whom do I contact if I have further questions?

You may contact the LEAP facilitator at your child's school or the Director of Advanced Academic Programs at 469-948-8046.

The Referral Process

Dear Classroom Teacher:

How students qualify for the gifted and talented program often puzzles our students and their parents. The process is really quite straightforward and uniformly applied to all children. I hope this explanation of the referral procedure will help you when questions come up that begin with "How does my child get into LEAP?"

Who can refer a student for the LEAP Program?

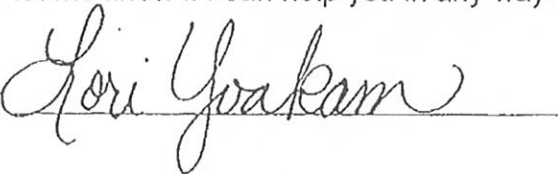
1. Parents, teachers, or students

After a referral is made, what happens?

1. The student's name is entered on the referral log.
2. A parent referral packet and a teacher referral packet are prepared for the student. *(The parent packet has a "date due" on it.)*
3. Once the parent packet is returned, the student is entered on the testing schedule. *(The parent packet needs to be returned to me as soon as it is brought back to school. Please do not hold on to it until you have finished the teacher referral packet. I do not need your information as quickly as I need the parent information.)*
4. A schedule will be drawn up for the testing process. *(Testing can take from four to seven days.)*
5. Once tests are completed and scored, a profile is prepared for each student tested.
6. The student's teacher, the principal, and I will review the profile and make our placement recommendation. *This recommendation is not binding; the district screening committee makes the final decision.*
7. All the profiles are sent to the office of Advanced Academic Programs where the district committee meets to review LEAP candidate profiles once every six weeks.
8. The profiles from our campus are returned to me, and I send a letter to the parents notifying them of the committee's decision. I also invite them to schedule an appointment to come in and go over the profile.
9. If the student has been accepted into the program, I will send home a "Permission to Serve" form. This form must be returned to me before the student can attend LEAP class.
10. New LEAP students are entered into the district database by the LEAP office.

I hope this answers questions for you and will assist you in explaining the process to parents. Please let me know if I can help you in any way with g/t issues.

LEAP Facilitator



GIFTED AND TALENTED TESTING REFERRAL

Date of Referral: _____

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Grade 2013-14: _____ Campus: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

Name of person referring student for GT testing _____

How long have you known this student? _____

Relation to Student _____

Please answer the following questions completely.

Please explain why you feel this child should be assessed for Gifted and Talented Services:

Provide examples of behaviors or characteristics of giftedness you have seen displayed by this student. Please be specific.

Additional Comments:

CHILD'S NAME: _____
CHILD'S BIRTHDATE: _____
CHILD'S AGE: _____ YRS. _____ MOS. _____

Nomination for Gifted/Talented Program

Dear Parent:

Before testing for the LISD gifted and talented program [LEAP] can begin, we must have written permission from you. If you are in agreement with testing, please complete this form as well as the two inside pages of the attached evaluation form [GATES]. The GATES provides us a picture of how you see your son/daughter as compared to other children of the same age. If it is difficult for you to make that comparison, then just evaluate him/her according to your own observation of their talents and abilities.

If you prefer your child not be tested, check "No..." at the bottom and return this page and the blank GATES form to your child's teacher.

This letter and a completed GATES must be returned to your child's teacher by the following date: _____.

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT:

STUDENT _____ Current Grade _____
Mailing address _____ Student I.D.# _____
_____ Home Phone _____
Work Phone: (M) _____ (F) _____

Do you think that your son/daughter would benefit from placement in a Gifted and Talented Program?

_____ Yes, I give permission for testing.

_____ No, I do not give permission for testing.

Parent Signature

Date



Lewisville Independent School District
1800 Timber Creek Rd
Flower Mound, TX 75028
469-948-8046

Lewisville ISD Gifted & Talented Program

PERMISSION TO TEST

Dear Parent:

Gifted and talented testing in Lewisville ISD requires that we obtain written permission from the parent or guardian before testing can begin. Please complete this form in its entirety and return to the campus GT facilitator.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Birth Date: _____ Age: Years _____ Months _____

Student ID#: _____

Parent contact phone number: _____

Parent Email address: _____

Please answer the following:

1. Has the student had Gifted & Talented testing in Lewisville ISD previously? _____
2. Has the student ever been in a gifted program elsewhere? _____
If yes, in what school district? _____
Please attach documentation.
3. Does the student participate in any special programs? _____
If yes, please list. _____

_____ Yes, I give permission for my student to be tested.

_____ No, I do not give permission for my student to be tested.

Parent or Guardian signature

Date