

Connally ISD

Gifted and Talented Program Guide for Families

The mission of the Connally ISD Gifted and Talented team is to inspire and empower our gifted Cadets to use their strengths to make a positive impact on our world

The vision of Connally ISD is to be the best and most sought after school district where every student is ready for the future:

*Ready for college
Ready for the workplace
Ready for personal success*



Connally ISD holds the following core values:

Kids come first.
Continuous improvement is essential for future success.
The success of each student is the shared responsibility of students, families, schools, and community.
Environment influences learning.

Additionally, the following beliefs form the foundation for the design and delivery of the CISD gifted/talented program:

Gifted learners have different learning needs compared to typical learners. Therefore, curriculum must be adapted or designed to accommodate these needs.

Gifted learners cut across cognitive, affective, social, and aesthetic areas of the curriculum experience.

Gifted learners are best served by an interdisciplinary approach that allows for accelerated and advanced learning, and enriched and extended experiences.

Purpose of the Program

The purpose of the Connally ISD Gifted and Talented Program is to provide opportunities to meet the educational, psychological, and social needs of gifted students. The program goals will include the following:

- The gifted and talented students will gain expanded insights into their own academic ability, potential for success, and the inherent responsibility these gifts imply.
- The gifted and talented students will expand their problem-solving and decision-making techniques by utilizing higher thinking skills.
- The gifted and talented students will become more independent and self-directed in their educational pursuits.

Participants

“Gifted and talented student” means a child or youth who performs at or shows the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment and who exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area, possesses an unusual capacity for leadership, or excels in a specific academic field. *Education Code 29.121*

Gifted/talented programs/services

Identified gifted/talented students are assured an array of learning opportunities that are commensurate with their abilities and that emphasize content in the four (4) foundation curricular areas. Services are available during the school day as well as the entire school year.

Students who meet eligibility criteria in Kindergarten will begin receiving GT services no later than March 1. They will be served through a pull-out program to meet their needs.

Identified GT students in grades 1-5 will also be served through a pull-out program two days per week. They will be engaged in learning through multiple intelligences and various depths of complexity. The program is split into four main categories: Brain Boosters, SEL through bibliotherapy, Mind Missions and We Schools/Research.

Students at the junior high will receive direct GT services in the four core areas targeting an immersion in the areas of rocketry, coding, and robotics.

In addition to engaging in work in their selected career pathway, students at the high school level may participate in a variety of core academic activities, JROTC, theater, band, UIL, etc.

Assessments

Students are referred, screened, and assessed through various qualitative and quantitative measures. Assessments for non-verbal intelligence, reasoning, and math and reading achievement will be utilized. Parents and teachers will also provide input through instruments rating gifted behaviors in children.

A committee of educators trained on the nature and needs of gifted students evaluate the scores to determine individual student eligibility for Gifted/Talented services.

Assessment opportunities for gifted/talented identification are made available to students at least once per school year.

Communication

An awareness session providing an overview of the assessment procedures and services for gifted/talented students is offered for families by the district and/or campus annually.

Written permission is required for students to be formally assessed or admitted into the gifted program.

A district level advisory council meets each spring to review gifted/talented education policies and procedures as well as to provide recommendations for program improvement. The group is composed of community members, gifted/talented students, parents of gifted/talented students, school staff, and gifted/talented education staff.

Ongoing communication to the community occurs through campus websites, social media, and newsletters.

District G/T contact information

| Campus(es) Served | Name | Phone |
|--|------------------|----------------------------|
| District GT Coordinator | Jeff Platt | 254-296-7600; 254-750-7100 |
| Connally Early Childhood Center (PK-K) | Kelsey Stevens | 254-750-7160 |
| Connally Primary School (1-3) | Bethany Fieseler | 254-296-7600 |
| Connally Elementary School (4-5) | Andrea Clark | 254-750-7100 |
| Connally Junior High School (6-8) | Valerie Stanford | 254-296-7700 |
| Connally High School (9-12) | Renee Thompson | 254-296-6700 |