



Maypearl Independent School District
Tradition – Pride - Purpose

Gifted and Talented District Guidelines

Updated: January 2021



Maypearl Independent School District
Tradition – Pride - Purpose

Table of Contents

The TEC Chapter 29.121 State & Local Definition.....	1
Philosophy.....	1
Program Design.....	2
Prototype.....	2
Program Goals.....	3-4
1. Program Identification	
2. Program Organization	
3. Curriculum Development	
4. Staff Professional Development	
5. Parent and Community Involvement	
6. Evaluation, Revisions, and Adjustments	
Program Curriculum Objectives.....	5
Student Identification for Nomination	5-6
Criteria for Nomination.....	6
Criteria for Selection.....	6
Characteristics of a Gifted/Talented Child.....	7-8



Maypearl Independent School District
Tradition – Pride - Purpose

Identification and Selection Process.....8-9

Transferring Students9

Student Records of the Gifted & Talented Program.....9-10

Selection Grievances.....10

Furloughs, Reassessments, or Exits from the Program.....10-11

Parental and Community Involvement.....11

Evaluation.....11-12

Procedure for Evaluation.....12



Maypearl Independent School District
Tradition – Pride - Purpose

Texas State Goal for Service for Gifted/Talented Students

Students who participate in services designed for gifted/talented students will demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication as evidenced by the development of innovative products and performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are advanced in relation to students of similar age, experience, or environment. High school graduates who have participated in services for gifted/talented students will have produced products and performances of professional quality as part of their program services.

Introduction

In 1977, the Texas Legislature passed its first legislation concerning the education of gifted/talented (G/T) students. In 1979, state funds for providing services to G/T children were made available, but providing such services was optional for school districts. In 1987, the Texas Legislature mandated that all school districts must identify and serve G/T students at all grade levels. In 1990, the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students (State Plan) was adopted by the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) that included a commitment to high-level learning opportunities for G/T learners.



Maypearl Independent School District
Tradition – Pride - Purpose

In 1999, the 76th Texas Legislature introduced Rider 69 which spurred the initial development and ongoing refinement of the Texas Performance Standards Project

for Gifted/Talented Students (TPSP) as a vehicle through which districts might address the stated goal. With the TPSP and ongoing research to inform and improve practice, Texas educators are committed to meeting the unique needs of G/T students and to expanding the ways to do so. To learn more about programs and resources for G/T education in Texas visit the Texas Education Agency (TEA) G/T website at:

[https://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Special_Student_Populations/Gifted and Talented Education/Gifted Talented Education/](https://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Special_Student_Populations/Gifted_and_Talented_Education/Gifted_Talented_Education/).

The two documents described above, the *Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students* and the *Texas Performance Standards Project for Gifted and Talented Students (TPSP)*, guide the design of the MISD program for gifted and talented learners.

The Texas Education Code 29.123 specifies that a "gifted and talented students" is 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.



Maypearl Independent School District
Tradition – Pride - Purpose

Maypearl ISD Gifted and Talented Program

Beliefs:

- We believe in addressing the individual differences in abilities, needs, and interests of the school population we serve. An effective instructional program for MISD includes provisions for gifted and talented students.
- We believe that Gifted and Talented students are passionate about learning, solve problems in unique ways, and require support from trained teachers who are sensitive to their individual needs.

Philosophy:

- The MISD philosophy for gifted students is to provide enriched academic learning opportunities and experiences through a program based on the study of the core subjects, visual/performing arts, and leadership while fostering positive attitudes about giftedness and appreciating the contributions of others.



Maypearl Independent School District
Tradition – Pride - Purpose

Program and Instructional Arrangements:

- Elementary students in grades Kindergarten through 5th Grade identified for the MISD Gifted and Talented Program will participate in an inclusive model in their core classes with GT trained teachers. This program seeks to develop critical and creative thinking, problem solving, research skills, collaboration, and leadership.
- Middle School students in grades 6th - 8th Grades that are identified for the MISD Gifted and Talented Program have the opportunity to choose the Panther Lab elective. The Panther Lab class will include STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) projects and challenging activities that include creative thinking, analytical processes, problem solving, collaboration, and leadership.
- High School Students that are identified for the MISD Gifted and Talented Program have the opportunity to participate in the Panther Academy and/or enroll in dual credit classes.

Program Curriculum Objectives:

The gifted and talented curriculum shall focus on the following:

- the integration of multiple disciplines into the gifted/talented curriculum;
- the development of productive, creative, complex, abstract, and/or higher level thinking skills;
- to develop independent or self-directed study skills,
- to develop an open-ended study program,



Maypearl Independent School District
Tradition – Pride - Purpose

- to present content that is related to broad-based issues, themes or problems,
- to present comprehensive, related and mutually reinforcing experiences within an area of study,
- to develop methods of research skills,
- to encourage product development that challenges existing ideas and produce "new" ideas,
- to encourage the development of leadership skills, self-understanding, recognition and utilization of one's abilities, self-direction and appreciation of the uniqueness of self and others,
- to develop professional products that utilizes new techniques, materials, and forms (applicable to all areas of study).
- and to develop an evaluation process of student products by using appropriate and specific criteria through self-appraisal, criterion referenced and standardized instruments

Student Identification/Nomination Process/Assessment:

- Identification of students for the *G/T* program is based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures. These include but are not limited to: cognitive ability measures, achievement tests, parent surveys, and teacher surveys. Parents and staff members have the opportunity to refer students for screening each year during specified nomination windows.



Maypearl Independent School District

Tradition – Pride - Purpose

- At all levels students, parents, teachers, and other persons that may have knowledge of a particular student may initiate the nomination process for a student. Nominations may be made for students in grades K-12 during the January-February window. Written parental consent for assessment is required before screening takes place.
- Nominated students in grades K through 11th Grade shall be assessed and, if criteria is met, provided gifted/talented services.
- Data and procedures assure that all populations of the district have access to assessment. Students are assessed in languages they understand or with nonverbal based tests.
- Assessment in areas of intellectual and specific academic fields includes qualitative and quantitative measures collected from multiple sources.



Maypearl Independent School District
Tradition – Pride - Purpose

Criteria for Selection:

A student that is nominated will then move to the screening process. The initial determination for further screening will be a full scale IQ score of 118. With this determination, the designated campus coordinator will complete a matrix of the student's information. After examination of all this information, the committee will make the final determination of placement in this program.

The following tools will be used to evaluate the students:

- 1) Ability Test - OLSAT (Otis Lennon Test of Student Ability) administered by campus counselors or other scaled and research-based IQ test administered by a certified diagnostician.
- 2) GATES (Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scales) completed by a teacher
- 3) GATES (Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scales) completed by a parent

GT Selection Committee Members:

District Representative, Lisa Hyles

Elementary Representatives: Cristin Votaw, Amanda Stinson, Kathy DeGeest

Middle School Representatives: Lee Joffre, Chelsea Hoard

High School Representatives: Eric Janszen, Brittany Chadwick



Maypearl Independent School District
Tradition – Pride - Purpose

Transferring Students:

Records of new students who have been identified as gifted learners by a former school district shall be reviewed by the selection committee to determine whether placement in Maypearl ISD programs are appropriate, or whether further testing is needed. Prior participation in a gifted and talented program does not guarantee inclusion in Maypearl's Gifted and Talented Program. Conversely, prior exclusion in another district's program does not imply exclusion from Maypearl's Gifted and Talented Program. Each student will be screened on that student's individual merit as compared to Maypearl Independent School District's selection criteria.

It is the responsibility of the parent to furnish data from the previously attended school district to support the placement of the student in the program. If the data fulfills the matrix of Maypearl's Gifted and Talented Program, the student will then be identified as a gifted and talented student at Maypearl ISD. If the data is not available, the student will be placed on a "watch-list" and tested as scheduled with the other student body.

Student Records of the Gifted and Talented Program:

The gifted and talented permanent records of students participating in the program shall include all testing reports, nomination forms, placement forms, and parental consent. The campus principal or designee will be responsible for the maintenance of the G/T student records in the student folders. All forms related



Maypearl Independent School District

Tradition – Pride - Purpose

to program entry, student progress, and exiting will be filed in the g/t folder and should be forwarded to the receiving campus. Student records will be maintained and destroyed according to the Maypearl ISD record's destruction schedule.

Selection Grievances:

Parents, teachers, or students may appeal any final decision of the selection committee regarding selection for or removal from the gifted program. Grievances regarding selection of students for or removal of students from the Gifted and Talented Program may be submitted in written form to the building principal. The principal will notify the selection committee. The committee will make a decision as quickly as possible and will communicate the decision in writing to the person submitting the appeal. If a consensus cannot be reached, an appeal may be made in writing to the district representative.

Furloughs, Reassessments, or Exits from the Program:

The gifted/talented committee makes the final decisions regarding the furloughing, reassessing, or exiting of students from the program for the educational, psychological, and personal reasons after consultation with both the students and parents. Such decisions are based on the following data:

- teacher recommendations based on observations of student behavior, performance, and/or products;
- counselor recommendations based on interviews and observations;
- parental requests for withdrawal from the program; or



Maypearl Independent School District

Tradition – Pride - Purpose

- student requests for withdrawal from the program with parental permission.

The parent of a gifted/talented student may request that his/her child be withdrawn or furloughed from the program at any time. The decision to furlough or exit the student will be made by the committee when it is deemed that it would be in the best interest of the student. Furloughs will be for a period of one year, then re-evaluated; however, parents are encouraged to use the district's review process so that the best educational programs are provided for the student. Re-entry documentation must be received at the end of the furlough or the student must be exited from the Gifted and Talented Program. Anytime that a parent, a teacher, or the principal thinks that a gifted student is not profiting fully from his/her educational program, a meeting for the purpose of reviewing the student's overall performance may be called. Before a student exits the program, a meeting of all persons involved must be held. Such a meeting to discuss the student's overall performance involves the parent, the teacher, the counselor and the principal. In the event that three of the four agree that the program is not meeting the educational needs of the student, the student in question will be exited from the program. All review procedures will be made through the building principal and forwarded to the district representative for action.

Parental and Community Involvement:

Education for the academically talented requires a strong partnership between parents, teachers, and the community. The Maypearl ISD Gifted and Talented



Maypearl Independent School District

Tradition – Pride - Purpose

Program will promote the active involvement and support of parents and community through the following:

- Parent and community members will continue to have input in the program organization through parent and community representatives who will serve on the Maypearl Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee.
- Parents and community members will participate in the identification process by being allowed to nominate prospective students for the program.
- Parents and community leaders will be invited to visit the G/T classes.
- Parents and community leaders will be invited to serve as resources for the program.
- Information concerning the program will be relayed through correspondence and reports to the school board.
- Parents will be given the opportunity to complete a program survey each year.
- Parent meetings will be held once a year.



Maypearl Independent School District
Tradition – Pride - Purpose

Evaluation of the Program:

Evaluation of the Gifted and Talented Program will be conducted yearly included in the annual parent, student, and staff surveys:

- To discover if and how effectively the objectives of the program are being attained.
- To discover unplanned and unexpected consequences that are resulting from specific program practices.
- To determine the underlying guidelines and related activities that contribute to the success of the program.
- To provide continuous feedback at appropriate intervals throughout the school year.
- To suggest realistic alternative courses of action for program modification.

Procedure for Evaluation:

Data will be collected from students, teachers, parents, counselors, and principals to assess the success in achieving the Gifted and Talented Program goals and objectives. The Advisory Committee will analyze the collected data and make recommendations for progress revision.

Revision of the program will be based on the following:

- Changes in State/Federal guidelines.
- Recommended changes may originate at any level and must be presented in writing to the building principal.



Maypearl Independent School District

Tradition – Pride - Purpose

- After requested changes are reviewed by the Advisory committee, the Superintendent and the School Board must then approve recommendations.

Maypearl ISD Policies regarding Gifted and Talented Students:

EHBB (Legal)

EHBB (Local)

DMA (Legal)



Maypearl Independent School District
Tradition – Pride - Purpose