

Gifted and Talented Program Staff Development Requirements

By definition of the *Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted and Talented Students*, the following rules apply to staff development requirements for teachers, counselors, administrators, and district personnel.

Teachers who have GT students in their classroom are **required** to obtain 30 clock hours of training in specific areas and 6 hours annually thereafter. These requirements apply to:

- Advanced Academics Specialists
- Elementary Teachers who provide English, Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies instruction in which GT students are included (This typically includes all elementary teachers who provide instruction in the areas identified in a traditional classroom setting.)
- Secondary teachers who provide instruction to GT students in Pre-AP, Pre-AP/GT and AP classes

The following staff members are **highly encouraged** to obtain the 30 GT hours as they could also be in a position of providing services to GT students at some point, if they are not doing so already:

- Fine Arts (other than secondary AP courses which are included above)
- Librarians
- Special Ed teachers
- Literacy and Content Strategists
- Itinerant Dyslexia teachers

(Please note that the list above is not comprehensive. Contact the Advanced Academics Department for information regarding requirements for specific positions not listed.)

In GPISD, the 30 clock hours are to be obtained in five different areas. Staff members need to complete 6 hours of credit for each of the following designated areas:

- Identification and Assessment of Gifted Students
- Social and Emotional Needs of Gifted Students
- Nature and Needs of Gifted Students
- Creativity and Instructional Strategies
- Differentiated Curriculum

Secondary teachers may complete their hours in Creativity and Instructional Strategies and in Differentiated Curriculum by attending *College Board Pre-AP/AP Institutes* or *SpringBoard Training* since these essentially deal with curriculum and instruction. However, *Pre-AP / AP Institutes* or *SpringBoard* **do not** satisfy requirements for the Identification, Social and Emotional, and Nature and Needs areas. Therefore, Pre-AP and AP Summer Institute training can count for no more than 12 hours of the mandated 30 GT hours. Staff members must obtain their hours in each of the three areas not covered by Pre-AP or AP through district-sponsored/sanctioned GT training opportunities.

The Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students also **mandates** that "administrators and counselors who have authority for program decisions have a minimum of six (6) hours" of GT professional development in Nature and Needs. This is a one-time requirement. However, as counselors and administrators are part of the GT Selection Committee on their campus, it is **highly encouraged** that these staff members obtain 30 hours of GT training and the six-hour update annually. The following must have at least six hours of documented GT training in Nature and Needs:

- All counselors
- All campus administrators
- All central office administrators who impact decisions regarding GT services

(Please refer to your Campus Improvement Plan to determine if your campus has additional requirements regarding GT Staff Development.)