

Information for Parents to Consider When Referring a Child for the Gifted Program

The HORIZONS program is designed to meet the unique intellectual needs of gifted children in CFISD. Parents, teachers, campus/district administrators or secondary students may all refer students to be assessed and considered for placement in the CFISD's gifted program, HORIZONS.

Placement in the gifted program is not appropriate for all children. Although the assessment process is open to all students, recommendation for testing a child for any program should be considered carefully. Some students who are tested and do not qualify may experience negative feelings that they do not measure up to their parents or teachers expectations of gifted ability. While parents and teachers are always encouraged to advocate for children, we ask that information regarding gifted ability be reviewed and considered before referring any child to be tested for the HORIZONS program.

Information, including parent presentations about identification, templates of gifted characteristics, brochures on the HORIZONS program and the appeal's process is available to parents on the HORIZONS website.

- Directions to access the HORIZONS website:
 - Campus websites contain a link that will take parents to the HORIZONS website.
 - Go to the District website- click on: Departments-Curriculum and Instruction-Gifted and Talented

- "Should I Refer My Child?" is a presentation that identifies both characteristics of gifted ability and the identification process in CFISD. It is available on the HORIZONS website.

- Review the following characteristics as they might relate to your child. These characteristics identify some ways gifted potential is demonstrated in children.
 - In previous testing my child scored within a range of 124-136 or higher on an IQ or Ability Test (ability index) or in the 95th percentile in an achievement test. This would signify advanced ability.
 - My child consistently demonstrates a need to understand how things work; why things are the way they are; is able to create several ideas or solutions to a problem with relative ease and/or asks questions that provoke thought typically beyond his/her age.
 - My child initiates projects that are often complex in nature and beyond the scope of his/her age.
 - My child has a wide range of interests; consistently seeks opportunities to learn more about topics; is not satisfied with surface level understanding and often multi-tasks or is involved in many tasks or projects at the same time.
 - My child enjoys complexity, solving problems, complex puzzles, or plays with ideas that are often outside the range of his/her typical age peers.

Every child is unique and will relate to his/her environment differently. So, not all gifted children will demonstrate all of these characteristics. But if you see a pattern in your child's behavior in which most of these characteristics are demonstrated, you are encouraged to refer your child to be screening for the HORIZONS program. If you do not see a pattern of significantly advanced/gifted characteristics, it may not be in your child's best interest to refer him/her for the screening process.

We must respect and nurture the ability of every child and work toward developing that ability to its greatest potential! Please consider the information available to you and make a decision that is in your child's best interest. Your campus administration, teachers, and the HORIZONS Department can help guide you in this process. Please call 281-897-4075 if you have any questions about the identification and assessment process for the HORIZONS program.