



TEA Guidelines for Gifted

CY-FAIR'S GT Program is based on these TEA guidelines, along with the TEXAS STATE PLAN for the GIFTED.

According to TEC Section 29.121, the 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 performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area;**
- **possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or**
- **excels in a specific academic field.”**

The HORIZONS program serves students who are gifted in the area of general intellectual ability.

These students require educational experience beyond those normally provided by the regular school program. The State Board of Education (19 TAC 89.3) states that:

“School districts shall provide an array of learning opportunities for gifted/talented students in kindergarten through grade 12 and shall inform parents of the opportunities. Options must include:

- ◆ **instructional and organizational patterns that enable identified students to work together as a group, to work with other students, and to work independently;**
- ◆ **a continuum of learning experiences that lead to the development of advanced-level products and performances;**
- ◆ **in-school, and when possible, out-of-school options relevant to the student’s area of strength that are available during the entire school year;**
- ◆ **and opportunities to accelerate in areas of strength.”**

CY-FAIR'S GT Program HORIZONS

- Background/Identification Requirements and Testing Procedures
- Program Overview
- Transfer Policy, Exiting and Appeals
- Special HORIZONS Courses
- TEA Policy

CY-FAIR'S GT PROGRAM

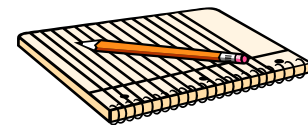
Background/Identification Requirements

Cypress-Fairbanks implemented its gifted and talented program in 1977. The program serves approximately 5,500 students in grades K-12 through 76 elementary and secondary schools.

Requirements

Students in grades K-12 are identified for the program through a matrix that includes these components:

- **achievement testing in reading and math**
- **abilities testing**
- **parent survey**
- **teacher survey/data collection or**
- **student interview**



Testing Procedures

Parents may refer their child to be screened for the HORIZONS program by requesting a HORIZONS Parent Survey and Permission to Test form from the school counselor (elementary student referrals) or director of instruction (secondary student referrals) during the Open Referral Process. The Open Referral Process begins October 1st and ends the last school day in November each year.

To find out more information, please contact your school counselor at the elementary level or the director of instruction for middle school and high school levels.



Carla Butler
Coordinator for Gifted Education
10300 Jones Rd., Suite 721
Houston, TX 77065

281-897-4075

HORIZONS WEBSITE:
<http://www.cfisd.net/dept2/curricu/gifted/gifted.htm>



K-12 Gifted Program

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students are tested for the gifted program in January/February and receive services by March 1st. Identified gifted students receive services through interdisciplinary units to promote high level thinking skills and creativity in both reading and math.

Grades 1 – 12

Starting in first grade, identified gifted students receive services in the four core subject areas (language arts, math, social studies, and science) for which they qualify.

- ◆ Students identified as gifted in math are served in both math and science.
- ◆ Students identified as gifted in reading are served in reading, language arts, and social studies.

HORIZONS Classes for Elementary Students

In grades 1-5, the gifted students are grouped together for the content areas for which they are identified. Depending on the number of students in a grade level identified as gifted, additional students may be clustered with the gifted at the discretion of the principal. Clustered students are not identified as gifted, and their placement is not guaranteed from one year to the next.

Specialized HORIZONS Courses

In grades 6-12, there are special classes each year designated for HORIZONS students only. Besides offering the advanced curriculum of Level-1 or K classes, these classes focus on meeting the social and emotional needs of the students. These classes also provide an additional opportunity for independent study and research, as mandated by the state.

Secondary HORIZONS-Only Courses

- 6th grade-World Cultures H, Science H
- 7th grade-Texas History H, Science H
- 8th grade-U.S. History H, Science H
- 9th grade-World Geography H, English I H, AAS
- 10th grade-English II H, World History H,
World Geography H
- 11th grade- World Geography H
- 12th grade-World Geography H

Transfer Policy

Identified gifted students from other school districts will be evaluated for placement in Cy-Fair's gifted and talented program **within six weeks of enrollment**. Transfer students should present the following information to the school counselor (at the elementary level) or director of instruction (at the secondary level) at the time of enrollment:

- ◆ Copy of identification matrix from previous district
- ◆ Letter from previous school showing entrance of child into a gifted and talented program
- ◆ Scores from any achievement or abilities testing
- ◆ Copies of previous report cards
- ◆ Lists of courses taken at previous school

Exiting and Furloughing from GT

- Elementary students and secondary students in identified-only HORIZONS classes whose grades fall below the expectations of the course will complete a student action plan designed to improve performance. A second action plan signed by the parent, teacher, student, and an administrator must be completed if grades do not meet expectations during the next six-week period. If the student is still failing after two six-week periods, he/she is exited from the HORIZONS program for that particular area of identification.
- In courses designated as clustered HORIZONS/Level-1 or HORIZONS/K-LEVEL, the HORIZONS students follow the Level 1/K-Level entry and exit requirements. (A copy can be found in the student handbook.) Students are still participating in the HORIZONS program as long as they are taking at least one HORIZONS designated course.
- Parents may request that their child take a one-year leave of absence or **furlough** from the HORIZONS program. The student will not take any HORIZONS classes. Students should re-enter HORIZONS at the beginning of the next school year.
- Secondary students may **opt-out** of individual classes as long as they take at least one HORIZONS class.

The Appeals Process

Students that do not qualify for HORIZONS may appeal the decision under certain circumstances

1. Documented illness during the original testing.
2. Emotional duress during testing (Example: recent death of a family member.)
3. Students with documented accommodations that were not followed during testing.

(Refer to the Appeal's Brochure on the HORIZONS website for more information.)

Bilingual GT Program

Bilingual students are screened for GT services. The screening process is the same as for English speaking students; however, the testing is conducted in Spanish. Special arrangements are made for the GT bilingual children so their gifted needs can be met while they acquire English language skills.