



Buena Vista ISD

Home of the Fightin' Longhorns

Gifted and Talented

Program Handbook

2022-2023

Table of Contents

Demographic Overview	4
Philosophy	4
Definitions	5
STATE DEFINITION	5
LOCAL DEFINITION	6
Program Organization	6
Gifted and Talented Services	7
Gifted and Talented Committee	8
Policies	8
Transfer Policy	8
Exit Policy	9
Appeals Policy	10
Furlough Policy	10
Re-Assessment Policy	10
Identification Process	11
Nomination	11
Testing	11
Screening and Placement	12
Evaluation Tools	13
Directions for Student Profiles	13
Notification of Placement	14
State Goal for Gifted Students	15
Local Student Program Goals	15
Content	15
Process	16
Product	16
Affective	16
Curriculum	16
Program Evaluation	17
Appendix	18
Characteristics of the Gifted	18
Furlough form/ Re-Entry Form	21
Parent Questionnaire	22

Adapted from the Javits Project Parent Nomination Form	22
Renzulli's Scale for Rating Behavioral Characteristics	25
Testing Permission	28
Placement Committee Report	29
BUENA-VISTA I.S.D.	29
Gifted and Talented Education	29
Gifted and Talented Qualification Checklist	31
GT Program Acceptance Form	32
GT Program Declination	33

Demographic Overview

The Buena-Vista Independent School District has an ever growing population of 250 students. Imperial has a population of approximately 350 people and is located approximately 30 miles from Fort Stockton, Crane, and Monahans.

Philosophy

Buena-Vista Independent School District believes that every human being is of value, with the right to optimum development. Each person is unique from all others and we must not only acknowledge this but base our programs upon methods of developing and utilizing this uniqueness. We are committed to educational programs that recognize the value and needs of the individual students. Providing programs and materials for students who demonstrate superior academic ability is an integral part of this commitment.

We believe that talented students need a qualitatively differentiated program that takes into consideration individual learning styles and special abilities. Buena-Vista ISD's Gifted and Talented Program stresses differentiated instruction through both regular education and special education opportunities. This integrated approach allows our students to develop interpersonal skills while being challenged

with logic, critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making skills. The purpose of the GT Program is to develop lifelong learning processes. Enhancing the self as a learner and a producer is a central focus. GT students should be challenged to develop their abilities for both personal fulfillment and the benefit of society.

Definitions

STATE DEFINITION

“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: (1) exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area; (2) possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or (3) excels in a specific academic field.

Texas Education Code, 21.651(Subchapter Q)

LOCAL DEFINITION

The Buena-Vista Independent School District recognizes the areas of general intellectual ability and subject matter aptitude in which gifted and talented students excel.

Program Organization

The Buena-Vista ISD's GT program serves students who are gifted in the areas of general intellectual ability and specific subject matter aptitude.

- Kindergarten and first grade students will be evaluated through the use of a talent pool and will be challenged to explore his/her unique abilities and given opportunities to enhance and strengthen those specific areas.
- Students in 2nd through 5th grades may be nominated for the Gifted and Talented program. Upon nomination by a teacher, parent, counselor, community member or other interested party, the student will be evaluated for the Gifted and Talented program. If the student meets the criteria, he/she will be identified as a gifted and talented student.
- Students in grades 6 through 12 may also be nominated and evaluated for the GT Program.

Gifted and Talented Services

- The appointed GT Coordinator will oversee the evaluation of all students nominated for GT services as well as the appropriate paperwork to be filed and/or sent to parents/guardians.
- The Director of Special Populations is the director for the program at each campus and should oversee the implementation of GT projects and learning experiences at each grade level. He/She will also make sure that teachers have fulfilled the obligation of an initial 30 hours of GT training as well as the 6-hour updates for each school year.
- It is recommended that ALL teachers implement higher order thinking skills and depth and complexity into the daily curriculum in order to fully challenge our gifted and talented population as well as the other students in the classroom.
- All teachers providing GT services will have the initial thirty hours of GT in-service training and will receive an annual update of six hours as required.
- GT students will be provided services through the regular education classroom and/or pull out program once a week.

Gifted and Talented Committee

The Gifted and Talented Committee will consist of the following school personnel:

- The GT Coordinator
- The campus principal
- 2nd through 5th grade classroom teacher and/or
- 6th grade 12th grade classroom teacher
- Counselor

Policies

Transfer Policy

If an identified gifted/talented student transfers into the Buena-Vista Independent School District, that child will have to meet the criteria of the local program. The student may be nominated by the use of previous records from the school. The student will then be evaluated based on the criteria set forth by the handbook.

If a student leaves the district and returns, if he/she was identified as a GT student according to Buena-Vista ISD criteria, the student will be re-admitted based on the previous assessment.

Exit Policy

Once a student is placed in the GT Program, there are three options for exiting:

- Student Request--A student may request to be withdrawn, but the student must have a parent's written permission.
- Parent Request--A parent may request a student to be withdrawn with a written request.
- Teacher Recommendation--If the student has failed to meet the GT class objectives, the GT teacher may request a meeting of the placement committee. The placement committee will determine the exiting of the student on a majority vote.

A written exit form will be placed in the child's folder.

At any time that the exit policy is an issue, a conference should be held with the GT student, parents and/or guardian, GT coordinator, and appropriate principal prior to exiting the student.

Appeals Policy

A parent may request information regarding the areas of deficiency if a student is not placed in the GT Program. The parent may appeal the placement or exit decision by writing a letter to the GT Coordinator within fifteen working days from the placement committee decision. The placement committee will respond within fifteen working days to a request of appeal, stating a date and time of a hearing before the committee. After the hearing, if the committee's decision is to be appealed, the parent will follow district policies concerning appeals. (FNG local)

Furlough Policy

If at some point in the GT Program a student needs relief from GT Program services because of illness, extracurricular activities, personal problems, or scheduling conflicts, etc., the student may request a furlough for up to one year. The GT student/parent must fill out the furlough request and present it to the placement committee. The placement committee is responsible for the final furlough decision.

Re-Assessment Policy

Buena-Vista ISD will not re-assess students for continuance in the GT Program.

Identification Process

Nomination

1. Teachers or other school personnel may nominate any student by filling out the Renzulli's Scale for Rating Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students (parts one and two only).
2. Parents may nominate students by completing the parent questionnaire.
3. Community members or other interested parties may nominate any student by filling out the local nomination form.

Testing

1. The nominee's teachers are responsible for completing Renzulli's Scale for Rating Behavioral Characteristics of Superior students (parts one and two only).
2. Evaluations for ESL students will be conducted in the primary language when possible.

Screening and Placement

Upon a child's nomination, a parent permission form will be signed and placed in the student's permanent file. This permission form will allow further evaluation/testing as well as allow them to be coded as a Gifted and Talented learner should he/she qualify. Permission to be coded as a Gifted and Talented student will be granted by the parent/guardian prior to any type of screening.

After nominations are complete, the student profile summary will be filled in. The criteria for placement are three strengths on or above the district line in the objective areas of evaluation. These will include the student's composite test score of the standardized test given at grade level, an average of the core subject area semester grades for the current school year, and the K-Bit Ability test.

The subjective criteria for the evaluation process will include a parent evaluation and a teacher evaluation. A strength on or above the district line in one or both of these subjective areas of evaluation will also be necessary to be considered for Gifted and Talented Services.

Evaluation Tools

The evaluation tools used for each grade level vary. Listed below are samples of assessment tools that may be used by the district.

- K-Bit Intelligence Test, SIGS (Scales for Identifying Gifted Students),
- Renzulli's Learning and Motivational Characteristics Scale, and
- Parent Questionnaire

Directions for Student Profiles

Product/Performance

- Grades--a semester or one-year average in language arts, math, social studies and/or science will be computed with a district line at 93%.

Learning characteristics

- The Renzulli Scale--Parts one and two will be averaged from all of the student's teachers. The district line is at 27.

Ability tests

- Each test given will be listed depending on the grade level. The district line for the K-Bit test is 122. A student with an IQ score of 130 or above is automatically qualified for the GT Program.

Parent Questionnaire

- This questionnaire is filled out by the parents and has a district line of 3.7.

**The committee will review and consider ALL areas before final recommendation is made.

In a consensus, the district line is:

OBJECTIVE

- K-Bit - 122
- Grades at semester or end of year $\geq 93\%$

SUBJECTIVE:

- Parent Input form - ≥ 3.7
- Renzulli (Teacher Evaluation) - 27
- SIGS

The Buena-Vista ISD Placement criteria are strengths on or above the district line in all areas of the objective portion of evaluation and at least one strength on or above the district line in the subjective portion of the evaluation.

Notification of Placement

Letters will be sent to all parents of the qualifying students notifying them of their student's performance in meeting the criteria for qualification. They will also be invited to review their child's profile.

State Goal for Gifted Students

Students who participate in services designed for gifted 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 students will have produced products and performances of professional quality as part of their program services.***

Local Student Program Goals

Content

The gifted and talented students will effectively investigate teacher-identified as well as self-selected broad-based themes/issues/concepts relevant to their giftedness through in-depth study topics and demonstrate excellence in the use of higher level thinking skills.

Process

The gifted and talented students will develop and apply logical, creative, and productive thinking skills to generate alternative solutions to complex problems and issues.

Product

The gifted and talented students will generate a variety of original products through skills and information gained from in-depth studies.

Affective

The gifted and talented students will gain an understanding of themselves and their relationships to other people, societal institutions, cultures, and nature.

Curriculum

For gifted students the research process is a road to discovery. These skills and methods are stressed from kindergarten to grade twelve. Offering gifted students the opportunity to exercise their critical and creative thinking skills and their problem solving skills as a part of the research process allows students to make new discoveries and to develop new and deeper understandings for themselves. The research process provides the gifted student the structure for

drawing logical, rational, and reasoned conclusions to complex problems, issues, and themes.

The GT curriculum focuses on developing the requisite skills necessary for valid research, and on facilitating the opportunity for students to apply those skills in more complex, in-depth research studies. By teaching research skills and methods to gifted students, their characteristics of questioning attitude, task commitment, critical thinking, problem-solving ability and sense of independence are nurtured and challenged. Past and present knowledge becomes meaningful when it opens new doors to new understandings for individuals and groups.

Activities using differentiated instruction will be implemented in the GT program, encompassing the principles set forth in the student program goals. The GT program may use themes to enhance the regular curriculum.

Program Evaluation

The TEA Performance Standards and the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students will be monitored as appropriate to ensure compliance with all state guidelines and movement toward the recognized/exemplary level.

Appendix

Characteristics of the Gifted

Since wide variation exists among the gifted, any list of characteristics must be a very general description of the group as a whole. Gifted individuals reveal a number of the following traits or indicators of giftedness.

- Is intellectually curious, innovative, and playful with ideas
- Enjoys the challenge and involvement of intellectual and creative tasks
- Has a keen and sometimes unique sense of humor
- Is an independent thinker and seeks to act independently
- Develops at an early age an inner control and satisfaction which may lead to divergent and nonconformist behavior
- Formulates abstractions while very young and shows facility in moving from concrete to abstract levels of thinking and of communicating
- Prefers complex tasks and processes information in complex ways
- Reads at an early age and comprehends with advanced understanding
- Reads widely and reads extensively in areas of special interest
- Acquires basic skills rapidly and with a minimum of practice
- Comprehends advanced ideas, concepts, and implications
- Has an unusual ability to memorize

- Is impatient with detail and drill, which may result in gaps in basic skills for some
- Resists requirements of unnecessary detail in the completion of tasks
- Explores wide-ranging and special interests not usually associated with children of his/her age and relates well to peers and adults who have similar interests
- Expends much energy and time in pursuing special interests and may be involved in numerous projects and activities
- Employs high intellectual and creative skills in assessing his physical and social environment, in solving problems, and in creating products
- Generates many ideas and multiple solutions to problems
- Copes with environmental situations in resourceful and creative ways
- Expresses him/herself fluently, clearly, and forcefully with words, numbers, and creative products
- Demonstrates richness of imagery in formal language and brainstorming
- Has capability for extraordinary leadership and tends to assume leadership responsibility
- Rebels against irrelevant learning requirements
- Becomes excited about new ideas but may not carry them through
- Creates and invents beyond the parameters of knowledge in the field

- Can improvise with commonplace materials as high expectations of self and others which may lead to high levels of frustration with self, others, and situations
- May tend to be a loner at least part of the time
- May have a sense of his own uniqueness, which leads to feelings of loneliness

Courtesy: Division of Gifted /Talented Education, Texas Education Agency

Furlough form/ Re-Entry Form

Requested by _____

Requested for _____

Date _____ **Length of time requested** _____

Reason for request:

Committee Decision _____ **Granted** _____ **Not Granted**

Committee Member Signatures		
Title	Name	Signatures
GT Coordinator		
Campus Administrator		
Grade Level Teacher		
Counselor		

Parent Questionnaire

Adapted from the Javits Project Parent Nomination Form

This parent questionnaire has 15 questions for you to answer about your child's behavior.

- ❖ If your child **never** behaves in the way the question describes, check **NOT AT ALL**.
- ❖ If you **have** seen this behavior, but not very often, check **SELDOM**.
- ❖ If you see this kind of behavior every once in a while, check **OCCASIONALLY**.
- ❖ If you see this behavior pretty regularly, check **OFTEN**.
- ❖ If you see this behavior all the time, repeatedly, day after day, check **ALMOST ALWAYS**.
- ❖ If you feel the question does not pertain to your child at all, you may write **N/A**.

Answer as objectively as you can. Then tell something about your child by answering Questions A and B very briefly.

Gifted and talented students perform or show potential in performing better than their peers intellectually, creatively, artistically, possess an unusual capacity for leadership, and/ or excel in a specific academic field. Your parent questionnaire is one of many informational items that will be used by the Placement Committee to place students in the GT Program. It is very important for you to understand that a child is not placed in the program because you have completed this form.

Thank you for helping us better serve your child's educational needs. Please return once completed.

GT Coordinator
Buena Vista ISD
432-536-2225
404 Hwy 11
Imperial, Tx 79743

Name of Student _____ Grade: _____

(Please print) Last Name First Name

School: _____ Teacher: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Please make one check mark after each of the 15 questions below, based on your opinion of which choice best describes your child's behavior.

- Not at All = 0
- Seldom = 1
- Occasionally = 2
- Often = 3
- Almost Always = 4
- Not Applicable = n/a

Check mark the response that best fits your child.		0	1	2	3	4	n/a
1.	Does your child use a mature vocabulary?						
2.	Does your child question why things are like they are? (Does he/she want to know what makes things or people react as they do?)						
3.	Does your child notice contrasts and similarities between people, events or things?						
4.	Is your child a keen and alert observer? (Does he/she seem to get more out of a TV show or experience than other children of the same age?)						
5.	Is your child interested in adult problems such as world hunger, pollution, war, etc.?						
6.	Does your child explain things well and carry messages accurately?						
7.	Does your child suggest a better way to do something if he/she isn't satisfied with the way it's being done?						
8.	Is your child curious? Does he/she ask many questions about all kinds of things?						

9.	Does your child think through his/her decisions more than most children of the same age?						
10.	Does your child imagine things to be different from the way they actually are? Do you hear him/her using these words: "What if...?" or "I wonder what would happen if..."						
11.	Does your child like to organize things, people, or situations?						
12.	Does your child have positive feelings about going to school?						
13.	Is your child self-confident? Does your child believe in him/herself?						
14.	Is your child stubborn in his/her beliefs?						
15.	Can your child be counted on to do what he/she has said he/she will do?						

Please give a brief written response to the following:

A. What special talents or abilities does your child have?

B. Tell about a time when your child surprised you by his/her ability, understanding, or knowledge.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Renzulli's Scale for Rating Behavioral Characteristics

Buena-Vista Independent School District



The Rating Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students

Name: _____

Date: _____ School: _____

Grade: _____ Age (yrs/mos) _____ Name of Person Completing

Form: _____ Relationship to child: _____

How long have you known this child? Years _____ Months _____

.....
Scale: 1 = Seldom or never 2 = Occasionally 3 = Almost Always

PART I: LEARNING CHARACTERISTICS (Circle One)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Has unusually advanced vocabulary for age or grade level; uses terms in a meaningful way; has verbal behavior characterized by "richness of expression, elaboration and fluency." | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2. Possesses a large storehouse of information about a variety of topics (beyond the usual interests of youngsters his/her age.) | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3. Has quick mastery and recall of factual information. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4. Has rapid insight into cause-effect relationships; tries to discover the how and why of things; asks many provocative questions (as distinct from information or factual questions); wants to know what makes things (or people) "tick". | 1 | 2 | 3 |

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 5. Has a ready grasp of underlying principles and can quickly make valid generalizations about events, people or things; looks for similarities and differences in events, people and things. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6. Is a keen and alert observer; usually “sees more” or “gets more” out of a story, film, etc. than others. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 7. Reads a great deal on his own; usually prefers adult level books or books significantly above current grade level; does not avoid difficult material; may show a preference for biography, autobiography, encyclopedias, and atlases. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 8. Tries to understand complicated material by separating it into its respective parts; reasons things out for himself/herself; sees logical and common sense answers. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 9. Has a sophisticated sense of humor. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 10. Initiates projects with ideas and action | 1 | 2 | 3 |

TOTAL POINTS _____

PART II: MOTIVATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS (Circle One)

Scale: 1 = Seldom or never 2 = Occasionally 3 = Almost Always

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Becomes absorbed and truly involved in certain topics or problems; is persistent in seeking task completion. (It is sometimes difficult to get him/her to move on to another project.) | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2. Is easily bored with routine tasks. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3. Needs little external motivation to follow through in work that initially excites him/her. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4. Strives toward perfection; is self-critical; is not easily satisfied with his/her own speed or products. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 5. Prefers to work independently; requires little direction. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6. Is interested in many “adult” issues such as religion, politics, ethical issues – more than usual for age level. | 1 | 2 | 3 |

7. Often is self assertive (sometimes even aggressive); stubborn in his/her beliefs. 1 2 3
8. Likes to organize and bring structure to things, people, and situations. 1 2 3
9. Is quite concerned with right and wrong, good and bad; often evaluates and passes judgment on events, people and things. 1 2 3

TOTAL POINTS _____

Please discuss your child's strengths and weaknesses in regards to giftedness

Signature: _____

Testing Permission

Buena-Vista Independent School District

Date: _____

To the Parents of _____

The Buena-Vista Independent School District provides a gifted and talented program serving students in second grade through twelfth grade. These students are gifted and talented in the areas of general intellectual ability and specific subject matter. Your child has been nominated for this program.

Students nominated for the GT program will be screened further to determine their eligibility.

The identification procedure may include intelligence tests, achievement tests or other evaluation tools. In order for your child to participate in these identification procedures, we need your permission. Please sign this letter and return it as soon as possible.

Thank you,

GT Coordinator

I give permission for _____ to participate in the GT identification process which includes intelligence and achievement testing and other evaluation tools. I understand I will be notified if my child is placed in the GT program.

Student's Name

Grade

Parent's Signature

Date

Email Address:

Placement Committee Report

BUENA-VISTA I.S.D. Gifted and Talented Education

Date: _____

We recommend that the following students be coded as a Gifted and Talented student at Buena-Vista Independent School District.

STUDENTS:

First and Last Name	Grade Level	First and Last Name	Grade Level

Committee Member Signatures		
Title	Name	Signatures
GT Coordinator		
Campus Administrator		
Grade Level Teacher		
Counselor		

Gifted and Talented Qualification Checklist

Student ID#: _____ Date: _____
Grade Level: _____

In order for a student to qualify for G/T he/she must score on or above the district lines in all areas of the objective portion of the evaluation and at least one area in the subjective portion of the evaluation.

OBJECTIVE

- Product/ Performance
 - Grades at semester or one year average \geq 93%
 - ELAR: _____
 - Math: _____
 - Science: _____
 - Social Studies: _____
 - Other: _____
- K-Bit Score
 - District Line= 122; Score \geq 130 is automatic placement
 - Score: _____

SUBJECTIVE

- The Renzulli Scale
 - District Line = 27 averaged from all teachers
 - Score: _____
- Parent Questionnaire
 - District line \geq 3.7
 - Score: _____

The student MET the criteria to qualify for the Gifted and Talented program offered by BVISD.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

GT Program Acceptance Form



Buena Vista ISD
Home of the Fightin' Longhorns

Parent Permission Form for G/T Services

Student's Name: _____

Address: _____

Home/ Cell Phone: _____ **Work phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

Grade: _____ **Teacher:** _____

Your child has met the qualifications to receive Gifted/ Talented services. Before we can officially offer your child these services, we must have your written approval for your child to participate. Please complete this form and return it to school as soon as possible.

Please check the appropriate box:

☐ Yes, we give permission for our son/daughter to receive Gifted/ Talented services.

☐ No, we do not want our son/ daughter to receive Gifted/ Talented services.

Parent/ Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



GT Program Declination

Buena Vista ISD

Home of the Fightin' Longhorns

Dear _____,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the results of Buena Vista ISD's gifted/talented (G/T) screening. The committee reviewed quantitative and qualitative data collected on your child.

As defined by the Texas Education Code, a gifted and/or talented student is "a child who performs or shows the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of the same age, experience, or environment." Our G/T services serve the needs of the academically advanced students in the four core areas: math, science, social studies, and English Language arts.

At this time, our screening indicates that _____ has not qualified to receive Buena Vista ISD's G/T services. As a parent, you have the right to appeal this decision. If you would like to discuss this decision further, please contact the G/T coordinator for a personal conference to look over the screening process records on your child.

Sincerely,

Makayla Cooper

Gifted and Talented Coordinator

432-536-2225

mcooper@bvisd.escl8.net