Gifted & Talented Education

Military Compact
Georgia was the 42nd state to adopt the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which impacts gifted education. Accordingly, our system initially places students based on the sending school’s enrollment or assessments. This includes advanced placement, gifted/honors, and technical/career pathways. A school may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued GTE enrollment.

Supporters of GTE
- Georgia Association for Gifted Children
- National Association for Gifted Children
- Byrdseed

‘Genuinely excellent education is not restricted to bringing individuals up to a preconceived standard of performance, to “norms”; rather it seeks to encourage each individual to develop standards for himself, to give him a clear perception of all that he might become as well as the opportunity to realize his personal vision.”
~ Talent Development: An Investment in the Nation’s Future

HOTS! ~ Higher Order Thinking Skills!

Advanced Placement
Houston County is pleased to offer Advanced Placement (AP) classes, which enable students to earn college credit while still in high school. AP classes vary by school, based upon student interest and enrollment.

Typical AP classes are:
- Biology
- Calculus
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- English Language
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- Government & Politics
- Human Geography
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Music Theory
- Physics
- Psychology
- Statistics
- Studio Art
- U.S. History
- World History

GTE Vision
Our vision is to produce innovative minds and tomorrow's global leaders.

GTE Mission
Our mission is to identify and serve exceptional students.

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Mark Scott

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning
Dr. Eric Payne

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**Definition of “Gifted Student”**

In Georgia, a gifted education student is defined as one who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual and/or creative ability(ies), exhibits an exceptionally high degree of motivation, and/or excels in specific academic fields, and who needs special instruction and/or special ancillary services to achieve at levels commensurate with his or her ability(ies).

**Qualifying for Gifted**

Qualifying for the gifted program in Georgia consists of three components: referral, testing and placement.

- **Referral.** A student may be referred for consideration of testing by administrators, teachers, counselors, parents/guardians, peers or self. Students who score at specified levels on a nationally norm-referenced test are automatically referred.

  Though the Georgia Milestones is not used to establish eligibility for placement, it may be considered in the referral process.

- **Testing.** Houston County follows state guidelines to place gifted students. To be eligible, students must earn a qualifying score in 3 of 4 categories: mental ability, achievement, creativity and motivation.

- **Placement.** Once the student is deemed eligible, parents sign a consent form for placement. Elementary GTE services begin the next school year.

**Houston County GTE**

* Utilizes Georgia Standards of Excellence and the Programing Standards for Meeting the Needs of Gifted & High-Ability Learners by the Georgia Department of Education for Gifted Education Curriculum and Instruction.
* Utilizes differentiated curricula that match academic needs, abilities, readiness and interests of students.
* Incorporates differentiation of content, process, product and learning environment.
* Is flexible.
* Uses research-based instructional strategies.

**Our Gifted Education Teachers**

* Are “Highly Qualified.”
* Earn a gifted endorsement by completing 170 classroom hours on teaching the gifted learner.
* Enjoy a wide variety of intellectual and cultural interests.
* Possess a broad general knowledge.
* Appreciate teaching the high achiever, gifted learner, and creative thinker.
* Strive for high achievement and practice E³.  

**Advanced Content**

* Differs in course content, teaching strategies, pacing and process skills when compared to comparable grade levels.
* Comprises of interdisciplinary curriculum.
* Utilizes curriculum compacting, allowing for acceleration and enrichment.
* Enriches content-area instruction with strategies that foster originality, creative thinking, unique ideas and self-direction.
* Promotes learning at a deeper level through the use of performance tasks, project-based learning, higher-order and critical thinking, problem solving and creativity.
* Allows students to be more actively engaged in their own learning.
* Encourages students to take greater responsibility for their own learning.

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