

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When can I apply for the FBISD G/T Academy?

The application process for the FBISD G/T Academy begins December 16, 2013. The FBISD G/T Academy Office at Quail Valley Middle School must receive all application materials by 3:30 pm on February 21, 2014. Late application portfolios received after the deadline will only be considered for the wait list.

2. What are the eligibility requirements for applying to the FBISD G/T Academy?

To be eligible for the G/T Academy, students must reside in FBISD and be identified as gifted and talented in FBISD. Students not currently enrolled in an FBISD school must meet the criteria for gifted and talented identification for FBISD.

Please check the FBISD G/T webpage for screening information.

<http://www.fortbendisd.com/departments/academics/gifted-talented/gt-testing>

3. My child is currently enrolled in an FBISD school. How does he/she apply for the FBISD G/T Academy?

Students who meet the eligibility requirements need to submit the following application materials to the FBISD G/T Academy Office at Quail Valley Middle School by 3:30 pm on February 21, 2014:

1. Online application <http://www.fortbendisd.com/departments/academics/academies/academies>
2. Online essay
3. Teacher recommendation requests. Request forms are available online.
4. Copy of the student's FBISD G/T Identification Profile (copy given to you when your child was identified G/T in FBISD)

4. My child is NOT currently enrolled in an FBISD school. How does he/she apply for the FBISD G/T Academy?

Students who meet the eligibility requirements need to register for spring G/T testing (registration packets will be available at the FBISD Administration Building, January 8-January 31, 2014) **AND** submit the following application materials to the FBISD G/T Academy Office at Quail Valley Middle School by 3:30 pm on February 21, 2014:

1. Online application <http://www.fortbendisd.com/departments/academics/academies/academies>
2. Online essay
3. Teacher recommendation requests. Recommendation forms are available online.
4. Copy of the student's most recent achievement test results (e.g., ITBS, Stanford, etc...)
5. Copy of the student's most recent state test results (e.g., STAAR) or fall semester grade report.

5. My child is identified as gifted and we do not live in FBISD, but we intend to move to FBISD. Would my child be eligible?

If your child is identified as gifted in another Texas public school district, or state that provides services for gifted students, he/she must meet the same criteria as any other student applying for the G/T Academy. Your child must first be identified G/T in FBISD and complete all application requirements by the deadline (Please see question #4.)

6. My child is waiting to be tested for G/T identification in FBISD during the spring testing period. The test results may come after the G/T Academy application deadline. What should I do?

All applicants who complete the online requirements and submit the necessary application materials by February 21, 2014 will be considered as long as it is determined they are identified gifted and talented in FBISD. Applicants waiting for G/T spring testing **MUST** submit all application materials (see question #4) by the deadline in order to be considered for 2014-2015 admission.

7. My child has only attended private school (or is moving from another state) and does not have all test scores requested in the application process. What do I do?

Each applicant must submit two sources of achievement results. Your child's school may not have issued the same achievement test (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) as FBISD. Please submit the results of the achievement test taken at the private school such as the Stanford test.

Many private schools do not participate in the state STAAR test. Please submit your child's test results from another achievement test and/or your child's current first semester grade report in place of an alternate achievement test.

8. Is transportation provided?

Yes. Transportation will be provided for students residing in FBISD. The transportation department will determine the pick-up and drop-off times and locations. These locations could be "cluster" stops.

9. How are students selected for the FBISD G/T Academy?

Students who meet the eligibility requirements and complete all application requirements by the February 21, 2014 deadline will be considered for admission. A selection committee will review all aspects of an applicant's portfolio and make placement recommendations for eligible applicants.

10. What does an applicant's portfolio include?

Each applicant's portfolio will include the following information: student essay, teacher recommendations, ability test results and achievement test results.

11. Do students need additional testing?

No. Once a student is identified gifted and talented, no additional testing is required.

12. Does my child need a teacher recommendation?

Yes. All students applying to the FBISD G/T Academy must have two teacher recommendations. Once you make the request for a teacher to complete a recommendation, the FBISD teacher will complete the recommendation online.

13. My child's teacher is not an FBISD teacher. How does he/she complete the recommendation?

Teachers who do not work in FBISD will need to complete a recommendation and submit a hard copy of the recommendation directly to the G/T Academy Office at Quail Valley Middle School. Recommendation forms are available at the online Academy Application site.

14. How will I know if the teacher has completed the recommendation?

You can check the status of your child's application and teacher recommendations by logging back in to your online application account.

15. If my child is not admitted to the academy, will he/she still get a good education?

Yes. The G/T Academy is one option in the continuum of program options for the gifted and talented in FBISD. The regular G/T program will continue to be offered at all middle school campuses.

16. Will the academy replace FBISD's other G/T services?

No. The FBISD G/T Department will continue to offer services for the gifted and talented at all of its campuses.

17. What if there are more qualified applicants than available seats?

If we receive more qualified applicants than we are able to accommodate, students will be placed on a wait list until space becomes available or the wait list closes.

18. If my child is placed on the G/T Academy wait list, when will I know if space becomes available?

Should your child be placed on the wait list and space becomes available, the Academy Coordinator will personally contact you via phone and email.

19. What is the role of the G/T Academy Coordinator?

The role of the G/T Academy Coordinator is to promote, direct and oversee high standards of teaching and learning, student achievement, and maintain quality programming for students deemed gifted and talented by developing, implementing and evaluating gifted programming that supports the vision, ethos and policies of state and local procedures.

20. Will academy students be able to participate in after-school events?

Students will be able to participate in after-school programs offered by the QVMS campus and district.

21. Will academy students be able to participate in field trips?

Students will participate in field trips that are appropriate and are considered a critical part of the curriculum.

22. Will academy students attend classes with other non-G/T Academy students?

All core academy classes (ELA, Social Studies, Science, Math, Spanish) are taken with academy students. Depending on the schedule created at the school and the electives selected by the students, students may have elective classes and lunch with non-academy students.

23. Will my child be able to accelerate?

We understand and respect that many G/T students have the ability to learn quickly and may have already mastered specific content objectives for their assigned grade level. The G/T Academy teachers work with students individually and plan for variations in learning needs. However, a parent may choose to have his/her child move on to the next grade level content area through credit by exam (CBE). Credit by exams are administered only through the FBISD Testing Department during late spring and summer. You can learn more about the testing schedule by visiting

<http://www.fortbendisd.com/departments/academics/cte/testing/credit-by-exam>

24. What additional information is important to know about credit by exams (CBE) and high school credits?

All grade points for CBEs will only be awarded on a five point scale. **No PreAP credit** will be given for course credit earned through a CBE.

Many students enjoy earning high school credits while in middle school. In accordance with FBISD Policy, *the academic record and course requests of middle school students shall be evaluated at the end of grade 7. A student with the potential to earn more than five high school credits prior to completing middle school shall be advanced from grade 7 to grade 9.*

Parents are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and consider the programming offered at their child's middle school campus prior to registering for a CBE.

25. Will the G/T Academy cause my child do to MORE homework than other G/T students in FBISD?

We respect that gifted children are often over scheduled and/ or have many interests; therefore, the intent of homework is to either extend or enrich classroom learning.

26. Shouldn't ALL students have access to this type of curriculum and instruction?

All students have the right to higher-level thinking and advanced content, but most students would not benefit from the level of rigor, pace and depth of curriculum content used for highly/profoundly gifted students.

27. Doesn't this program develop an elitist attitude among students and families?

The FBISD G/T Academy is providing students with exceptional learning needs an appropriately challenging education. Contrary to popular belief, when the gifted are placed in classes together, they do not come to the conclusion that they are better than everyone else. Rather they are humbled by finding peers who know more than they do. All efforts are made to ensure students, families and the community are aware that this academy is about "educational need" not "better treatment."

28. Can my child return to his/ her home campus at any time?

We expect all accepted students to complete at least one semester of the program before returning to their home campus. However, there may be special circumstances that warrant a student returning to his/her home campus prior to completing one semester or year.

29. Does a student need to re-apply each year if he/she is accepted and enrolled in the G/T Academy?

No. Once the student is enrolled and is successful in the academy, he/she remains in the academy.

30. What if we decide not to accept this year, and we decide to go the following year, will we get first priority that next year?

No, the student will need to re-apply each year.

31. What if we accept and then decline to attend the G/T Academy? Can we return to our home school?

Yes. However, once school begins in the fall, we expect all accepted students to complete at least one semester of the program before returning to their home campus.

32. What will happen to G/T Academy students after 8th grade?

FBISD G/T Academy students are good candidates for the FBISD Academies at the high school level. In addition, G/T Academy students will be provided services through Pre-Advanced Placement and/or Advanced Placement courses at the high school level.