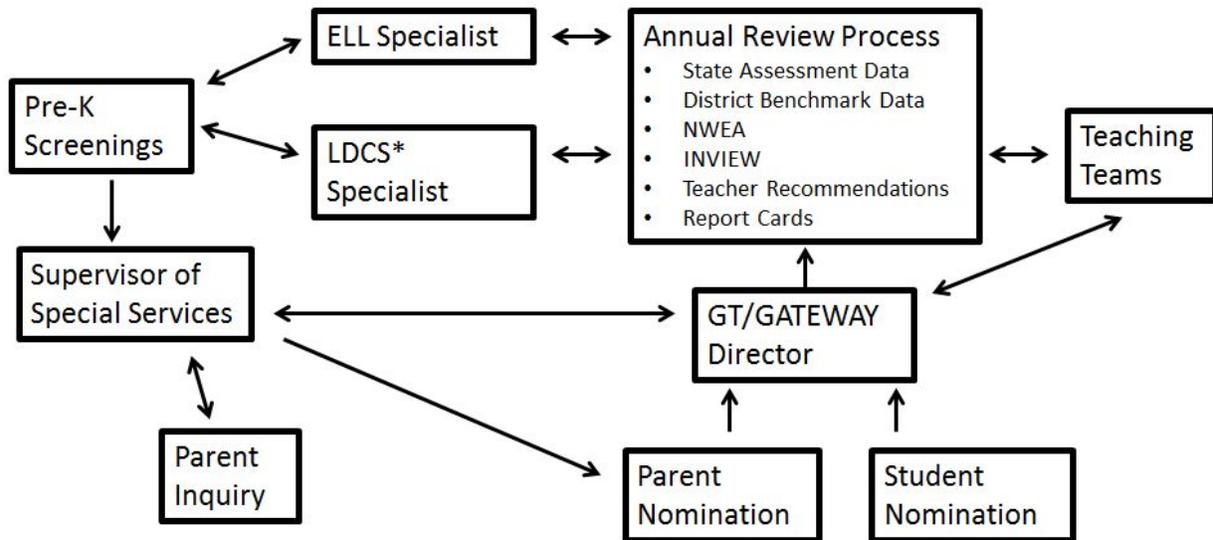


Mount Arlington Public School District Gateway GT Qualifications Process



SCREENING & TALENT DEVELOPMENT:

Annual Pre-K Assessments are completed to assess potential skills and talents by our Child Study Team.

The Director of Special Services also takes any parent calls regarding questions about how a child is placed in a program or how can my child be tested.

If a parent or student makes a request, the Gifted and Talented Teacher with parental consent reviews available data and meets with the teaching team to review the data.

Teachers at any time can recommend a student to be considered for the program and the qualification evaluation process is initiated.

Students at any time can self-nominate and upon parental consent a self-nomination form is completed and reviewed with the teaching team along with other qualification matrix data.

Parents can also request a parent nomination form that is reviewed with the teaching team along with other qualification matrix data.

OBJECTIVE DATA

At the end of Grade 2, all students take an IQ test. The District currently uses TerraNova's INVIEW test. This test is an assessment of cognitive abilities that includes verbal reasoning,

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sequences, analogies, and quantitative reasoning. The test is designed to “reliably measure skills and abilities important for academic success, help plan effective programs for your students, diagnose possible learning disabilities, and screen students for placement into special programs. A reliable Cognitive Skills Index (CSI) is derived from five sub-tests that assess the following cognitive areas:

- Verbal Reasoning—Words
- Verbal Reasoning—Context
- Sequences
- Analogies
- Quantitative Reasoning

InView is a nationally normed-referenced test, that assesses cognitive skills, which can map strengths, reveal hidden abilities (of what students are capable of doing) and point the way to new opportunities. InView helps with critical screening and identification for student placement, gifted and talented, and other special programs and services. It is also used to help identify students whose achievement is found to be inconsistent with their abilities.

In addition to the CSI data, the Gifted and Talented teacher reviews state assessments, in-house benchmarks, NWEA data, teacher recommendations, and report cards for use in the identification matrix.

SUBJECTIVE DATA

For each student identified through the IQ test results, state test results, benchmarks, and NWEA data, teachers complete a Renzulli Gifted Survey which addresses the following characteristics:

- Learning Characteristics
- Motivational Characteristics
- Creativity Characteristics

DECISION-MAKING

Using a matrix the Gifted and Talented teacher presents a list of qualified students to the teaching team of each grade for discussion and review. This information is then presented to the principal. The District sends home a letter to request permission for a student to participate in the program. This letter includes a list of expectations for students and parents to review to help them decide if they want to participate.

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ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS

Student Nomination: If a student wants to participate in a pullout program they can complete a student nomination form. Requests can be submitted directly to the Supervisor of Special Services or the Gateway Program Director.

Parent Nomination: If a parent wants to nominate their child they can request a parental nomination form. Requests can be submitted directly to the Supervisor of Special Services or the Gateway Program Director.

Twice-Exceptional Evaluation: Exceptions to the matrix cutoffs are made on a case-by-case basis with coordination by the Gifted and Talented Specialist, Child Study Team Specialist, ELL Specialist, Guidance Counselor, and Supervisor of Special Services for twice-exceptional students.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

In terms of performing arts, both the vocal and instrumental instructors hold auditions to screen for honors choir and honors band and special ensembles such as percussion or jazz. These honor programs provide holiday tours to local nursing homes and compete in regional competitions.

In terms of artistic talent, our Art Instructor provides opportunities for creative expression across all media, sponsors poster contests, offers a community-wide arts show, and posts a digital art show. Students have the opportunity to join the Art Club.

In terms of drama talent, students audition and produce a play for the community at both schools sponsored by our PTO. The District also provides resources for all of these talents by participating in a regional Consortium program: Workshop of the Arts.

In terms of technology talent, teachers provide coding opportunities such as the use of MIT Scratch and Hour of Code programs. In addition, students can opt to participate in robotics and engineering design challenges such as First Lego League Robotics and TransOptions and AEOP Solar Car Programs and/or opt to join the Technology Club.

In terms of leadership development, candidates for student council participate in training and coordinate service projects during the year. Students are given opportunities to learn about brain theory and SEL (social emotional learning) development through learning style inventories, multiple intelligences inventories, and character education activities.