



# **GIFTED & TALENTED Handbook Grades Pre-Kg – 12**

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The purpose of this handbook is to provide an overview of Saint Louis Public School District's program and services for gifted and talented students. This document is designed to answer many of your questions and help you understand the policies and procedures our district employs to meet the needs of our gifted and talented students.

## **Gifted and Talented Education**

### **SLPS Vision**

Saint Louis Public Schools is the district of choice for families in the Saint Louis region that provides a world-class education and is nationally recognized as a leader in student achievement and teacher quality.

### **SLPS Mission**

We will provide a quality education for all students and enable them to realize their full intellectual potential.

### **Gifted Vision**

Our vision is to provide a challenging, safe and nurturing school experience that fosters academic achievement and serves a diverse population of gifted and talented students.

### **Gifted Mission**

Our mission is to meet the unique academic and affective needs of the gifted and talented students.

## **Gifted and Talented Identification Procedures**

**State of Missouri** - In 1973, the State Board of Education was authorized by the Missouri legislature (H.B. 474) to establish standards for special programs for gifted students. As defined in Section 162.675 RSMo, gifted children are “those who exhibit precocious development of mental capacity and learning potential as determined by competent profession evaluation to the extent that continued education growth and stimulation could best be served by an academic environment beyond that offered through a standard grade level curriculum.”

### **Saint Louis Public Schools Testing Process**

#### **Gifted Testing Placement Process**

1. Student/Child is individually evaluated by **Saint Louis Public School current staff only.**
2. Parents are given results of evaluation.
3. Written reports are given to Student Recruitment and Placement, parents, and principals of SLPS schools by email or U. S. mail.
4. Student Recruitment and Placement department is in charge of the Magnet School Lottery and applications, student placement, and the management of the waiting list.

## **Gifted Guidelines and Policies\***

### **Saint Louis Public Schools Gifted and Talented Education Program**

#### **General Guidelines**

1. Qualifying children must be at least 3 years and 6 months old.
2. Students who do not score at or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile ranking on IQ and academic evaluations may be re-evaluated after one complete calendar year for up to four evaluations.
3. All gifted placement decisions will be based on assessments administered by current SLPS gifted program personnel.
4. Re-evaluation can be requested after one year has elapsed since previous intelligence and/or academic tests were administered.
5. Evaluation results will be emailed to parents, respective SLPS building principals and placed in student's permanent records.

## **Instructional Services for Gifted and Talented Students**

**Gifted Self-Contained Programs:** SLPS has three schools offering self-contained programs for gifted students in Pre-K through 12 grades. Kennard Classical Junior Academy (CJA) offers services to students from Pre-School (4 years) through grade 5. Mallinckrodt Academy of Gifted Instruction (AGI) offers services from Pre-School (4 years) through grade 4. The middle and secondary programs at McKinley, Classical Junior Academy (CJA) and Classical Leadership Academy (CLA) offer services for students in grades 6 through 12. All students enrolled in these schools have met the qualifications to receive gifted services. The gifted model implemented in the St. Louis Public Schools is shaped by the differentiation concepts of **acceleration and enrichment**. Students entering the self-contained gifted schools are placed in *modified* grade level curriculum. For more information on any of the full day gifted schools visit the websites provided in the introduction letter.

**Gifted Pull-Out Programs\*:** There are a variety of pull-out programs offered at various SLPS schools. The variation ranges from gifted programs in specific subject areas such as math or science, or talent programs like visual and performing arts. Several magnet schools also offer gifted pullout services. Students in gifted pull-out programs are not a homogenous group. They reflect the diversity of our district in both culture and intellectual ability. The students in pullout programs meet for part of the school in small groups with other gifted students at their grade level. Similar to the self-contained programs, the main focus of this type of program is **academic acceleration and enrichment**.

**High School Options:** Metro Academic & Classical Academy and Gateway STEM are open access secondary schools that offer accelerated learning for all high achieving. Additional talent and enrichment-based programs are offered at various high schools within the district. Further, accelerated services like International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses and College Dual Enrollment are available at several high schools within the District.

Based on data released by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Kennard CJA, McKinley CJA and CLA, Mallinckrodt AGI, and Metro AC have all earned points to qualify for Accreditation with Distinction. This is the highest recognition available at the state level.

**Exceptionally Gifted Students and Twice Exceptionally Gifted Students:** The St. Louis Regional Program for the Exceptionally Gifted Students (PEGS) provides a full-time, multi-aged, enriched and extended academic program for those highly gifted students who need an alternative to the regular classroom. This program is designed for children in 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades with IQ full scale of 138 or higher. Contact SLPS gifted office for more information. In addition, some of our exceptionally and twice exceptionally gifted students choose the individualized instruction provided by our K-12 virtual schools model.

***\*Note: It is important to note that students can go on to attend McKinley CLA for middle school and beyond from gifted self-contained or gifted pull-out programs.***

## **Selection Criteria-Gifted Magnet Schools**

Meet the minimum residency requirements

**Any student living in the City of St. Louis**

Meet the gifted testing requirements

Students who receive a score at or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Intelligence **AND** 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Academic Achievement test qualify to receive gifted services.

The St. Louis Public Schools Gifted Testing Offices does not inform parents of the test instrument(s) being used at any time prior to the administration of the test for their child.

## **Selection Criteria-Gifted Magnet Schools Frequently Asked Questions**

How do I have my child tested for Gifted Services?

- Contact the district's Office of Gifted & Talented at (314) 345-4548 to schedule an appointment.

Can I submit scores from an outside examiner?

- St. Louis Public Schools does not accept testing results from outside or private agencies.

How often can I have my child tested for gifted?

- A minimum of one calendar year (365 days) between testing up to four times.

## What happens during the gifted testing?

- Testing will be administered at 801 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Louis, MO 63101
- Selection of the intelligence test administered will depend upon the age of the child and previous testing and the specific assessments are selected at the time of testing
- The student/child will be assessed individually with a licensed psychological examiner
- The academic test administered depends on the grade level of the child being tested
- Length of the test is dependent on the child's age and abilities (20 minutes – 2.0 hours)
- Students may be asked to return for a second testing appointment

## **Applying for Gifted Magnet Schools**

How do I apply?

- Online application found on SLPS website:  
[www.slpsmagnetschools.org](http://www.slpsmagnetschools.org)
- Complete the paper application found in the Magnet School Guide and return/mail to Student Recruitment & Placement at 801 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Louis, MO 63101
- Scan and email to [slpsmagnetschools@slps.org](mailto:slpsmagnetschools@slps.org)

## What happens after the application is submitted?

- Next, a confirmation receipt will be emailed or mailed to your home.
- Applications received by Student Recruitment & Placement are time-stamped before entering into database if paper application is submitted
- Placement Priority is assigned based on information submitted with application and interface with SLPS student database if applicable
- Applications are delivered to Gifted Testing Offices
- Application Screened
- If the child meets criteria then a testing appointment is scheduled
- Lottery Drawing
  - All applicants are entered into the lottery
  - Testing is not required for an applicant to be considered in the lottery but Gifted Eligible status is required for a student to be accepted and offered a seat

## What is the Lottery?

- When your child's application is submitted, it will be reviewed and assigned to its appropriate Placement Priority category.
- When the lottery is run the system randomly selects an application within the Placement Priority order, and attempts to assign the applicant to the first choice and then second choice if needed.
- The number of applicants for specific schools and grade levels will often exceed the number of available spaces, so all applications are entered into a lottery with those

applicants who are unable to be placed being added to waiting lists.

- The lottery system is used to assure an equal chance of placement for all students applying to magnet schools, within the established Placement Priority categories.

## **Resources**

### **Parents:**

National Association for Gifted Children: <http://nagc.org>

The Gifted Development Center & Institute for the Study of Advanced Development:  
<http://www.gifteddevelopment.com>

Hoagies Gifted Education Page: <Http://www.hoagiesgifted.org>

National Research Center on Gifted and Talented <http://gifted.uconnedu/NRCGT.html>

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) <http://apa.org/ed/cgepseng.html>

Kid Source <http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/pages/ed.gifted.html>

Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) [www.eric.ed.gov](http://www.eric.ed.gov)

Gifted Resource Council  
[www.giftedresourcecouncil.org](http://www.giftedresourcecouncil.org)

The Gifted Association of Missouri  
[www.mogam.org](http://www.mogam.org)

### **Students:**

Library of Congress  
[www.loc.gov/families](http://www.loc.gov/families)

I Coach Math  
<http://www.icoachmath.com/>

Purple Math - Your Algebra Resource  
<http://www.purplemath.com>

Sheppard Software  
<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/>

NASA  
<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/index.html#.U2j5n4FdUWY>

National Geographic Kids  
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>

Puzzles for Mind Challenges <http://www.puzzles.com>

Ask an Expert <http://www.askanexpert.com>

Kids Know It [www.kidsknowit.com](http://www.kidsknowit.com)

LEARNZ <http://www.learnz.org.nz/>

## **CONSENT and PERMISSION TO PERFORM PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

This form provides information about the assessment process for St. Louis Public Schools Gifted & Talented program and about you and/or your child's rights and responsibilities. Your signature indicates that you understand the information and freely consent to participate in or allow your child to participate in this assessment.

### **PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING**

Through the administration of a variety of standard psychological tests, we will attempt to determine whether your child qualifies to receive gifted services. To qualify for gifted service, student must receive score equal to or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on intelligence and academic achievement assessments. These questions generally concern cognitive functioning and the mastery of concepts and skills relative to a group of students of the same age. Upon conclusion of testing, you have the right to know the test results and interpretations.

The assessments will take place with a licensed psychological examiner in an office or classroom. An individually administered assessment will be provided to the test-taker. More faith is often provided to the individually administered assessments because the trained professional administering the test can make judgments during the testing that affect the administration, scoring, and other observations related to the test. Typically, the test-taker is asked questions that become more challenging. If the test-taker does not answer the first questions correctly then easier questions would generally be presented to the test-taker. Although it is sometimes possible to complete the testing in one sitting, it is common for the evaluation to require two sessions.

## **TYPES OF EVALUATIONS**

- Intelligence Testing – to assess overall intellectual ability, as well as strengths and weaknesses in areas such as verbal comprehension, perceptual reasoning, working memory, and processing speed.
- Achievement Testing – evaluation of academic abilities in the areas of word reading, phonics, reading comprehension, written language, math reasoning, calculation, and academic fluency. Measures of oral language may also be assessed.

## **FEEDBACK**

The type(s) of feedback you and/or your child will receive may include:

- A brief, written summary that provides an overview of findings and eligibility status will be sent via email or US mail to the parent/guardian.

## **RECORD RELEASE**

I understand that the information obtained in this evaluation is confidential and will not be released to any person or organization without my written permission.

Written records are released only after the parent/legal guardian or the student signs a consent form if the student is 18 years or older.

## **INFORMED CONSENT**

By signing below, I acknowledge that I consent to a psychological evaluation with St. Louis Public Schools. I understand the following:

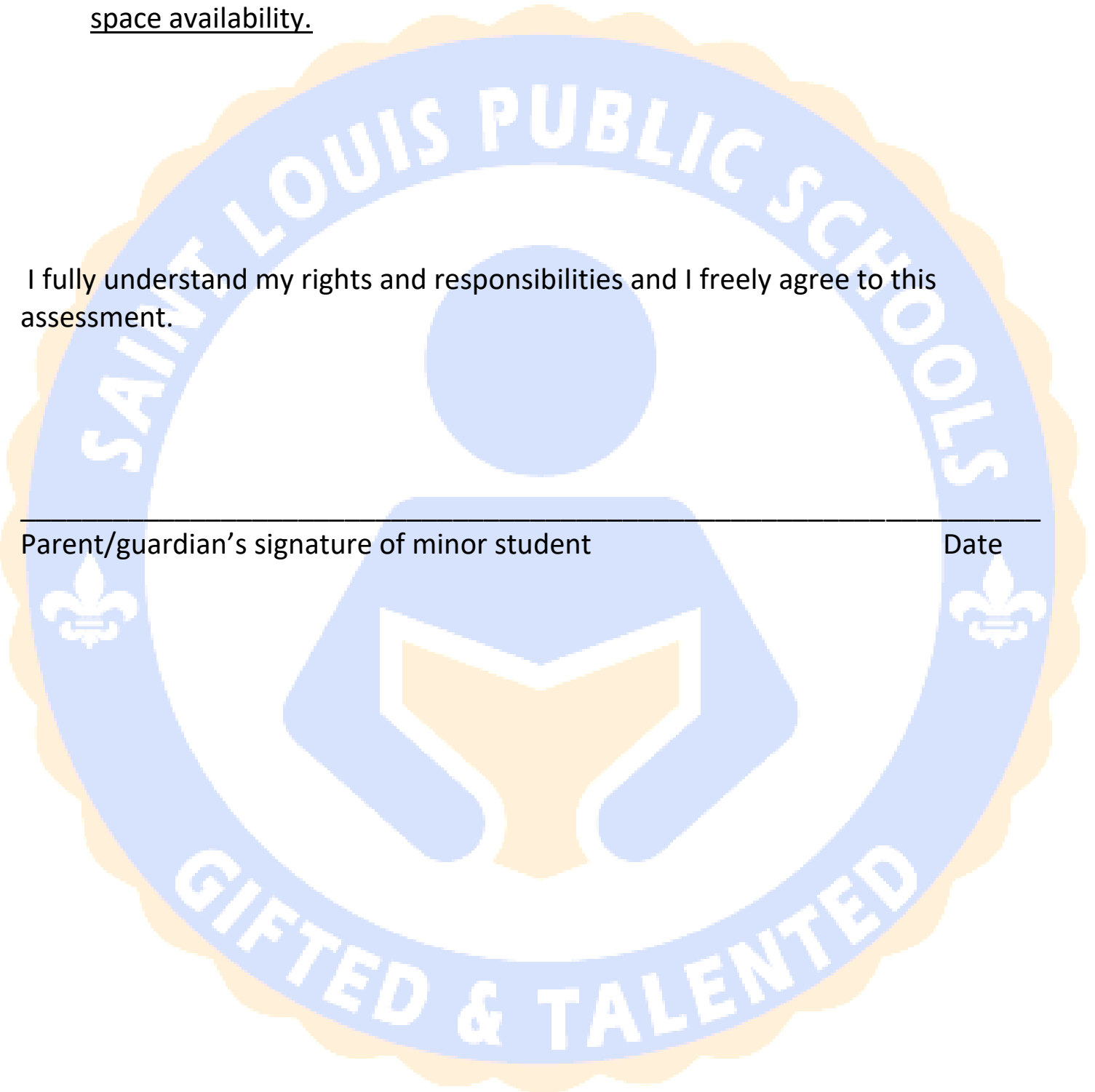
1. I have the right to discontinue the evaluation at any time. However, St. Louis Public Schools reserves the right to suspend an assessment if the psychological examiner determines a testing irregular event has occurred that will compromise the validity of the findings.
2. I will be informed of my child's eligibility or ineligibility for program enrollment within three to five business days of being assessed.

3. Eligibility based on assessment results does not ensure immediate enrollment in the Gifted & Talented program or a gifted school. Enrollment is based upon intelligence and academic achievement assessment results and space availability.

I fully understand my rights and responsibilities and I freely agree to this assessment.

Parent/guardian's signature of minor student

Date



## **Safety Measures as we reopen the Gifted & Talented Office**

It is our desire to offer a safe and reliable assessment experiences for our students.

As we reopen the office for testing we will have a focus on safety. We request that if a student or accompanying adult is feeling unwell on the day of testing that the appointment be rescheduled. To assist in maintaining social distancing, we will limit the number of people in the office at any one time. Students will have to have an appointment for testing to enter the building. It will not be possible to drop by the office to ask questions or schedule assessments. We are asking that a single adult accompany the child being assessed to the office. While the student is with the examiner, parents and guardians will be asked to sit in one of four locations in/around the Gifted Office or will be given the option of waiting outside the building. Adults will be contacted immediately upon the conclusion of testing to help facilitate the collection of their child. Masks must be worn by everyone in the building at all times.

Students must wear masks during all assessments. If you have any reservations about the impact PPE may have on your child's testing outcomes and decide to keep them home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we completely understand. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands prior to testing. All materials that the student is required to touch during testing will be sanitized immediately after testing has concluded.

Eligibility reports will be sent to parents/guardians between 3-5 business days after testing. Once testing has concluded and the assessment is scored, the scores generated from will be final. Any concerns regarding the validity of the assessment given the current climate must be resolved prior to assessment.