



SISD Professional Learning Gifted and Talented

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025: SAFE SCHOOLS / VECTOR SOLUTIONS COURSES WILL NOT COUNT TOWARDS G/T CREDIT.

Guidelines/Expectations

All teachers of gifted/talented (G/T) are required by the TEA (Texas Education Agency) to have 30 hours of initial G/T training prior to instruction. Courses required are specific to gifted education. Once a teacher has completed the 30 hours, each year they have GT students in their classroom, a 6 hour course called a GT Update is required. This applies to all core content classroom teachers grades k-12 with G/T students on their roster. [\(TAC Title 19 RULE §89.2\)](#)

30 Initial/Foundational Hour Requirements

Initial Requirements for Teachers of Gifted Students	
6 Hours in Each of the Following Strands	
Course 1	Nature and Needs (NN)
Course 2	Identification and Assessment (IA)
Course 3	Differentiating Instruction for G/T Students (Diff)
Course 4	Creativity and Instructional Strategies (CIS)
Course 5 options	Depth & Complexity (DC) OR Social/Emotional (SE)

Courses should not be repeated. Credit will not be issued twice for the same asynchronous course.

For full information on courses, please visit the Eduphoria course description

[Eduphoria: how to upload certificates, view your portfolio, and upload out of district documents](#)

STRAND	Dates and Link to Eduphoria	Medium	Topic	Presenter	Host	GT Hours
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Initial 30 Core Hours

Course 1: Nature and Needs	Course Window: Sept 2, 2025- January 6, 2026 Click to Register	Asynchronous	Nature & Needs of Gifted Learners	Meredith Austin, Academy	HACOOP Online	6
Course 2: Identification and Assessment	Course Window: Sept 2, 2025- January 6, 2026 Click to Register	Asynchronous	Identification and Assessment of GT Students	Amy Ellingson, Spring ISD	HACOOP Online	6
Course 3: Differentiation	Course Window: Sept 2, 2025- January 6, 2026 Click to Register	Asynchronous	Differentiation for Advanced Students	Meredith Austin, Academy	HACOOP Online	6
Course 4: Creativity & Instructional Strategies	Course Window: Sept 2, 2025- January 6, 2026 Click to Register	Asynchronous	Creativity & Instructional Strategies	Joshua Hicks, Aldine	HACOOP Online	6
Course 5: Social Emotional or Depth and Complexity	Course Window: Sept 2, 2025- January 6, 2026 Click to Register	Asynchronous	Depth & Complexity: Adding Depth and Complexity to the Classroom	Amy Ellingson, Spring ISD	HACOOP Online	6
	Course Window: Sept 2, 2025- January 6, 2026 Click to Register	Asynchronous	Social and Emotional Needs	Christin Kimball, Spring ISD	HACOOP Online	6
Online Courses		Asynchronous Self Paced	This option is limited. Please contact your GTC or district GT specialist for additional information.	Responsive Learning	Spring ISD	6-30
Admin Course	Please complete by March 31 Complete the linked form and you will be added to the Responsive Learning	Asynchronous Self Paced	GT Compliance Course for Administrators (Principal, Asst Principal, Counselor)	Responsive Learning	Spring ISD	6

	Course.					
	<div>Asynchronous Update Hours</div> <div>All COOP Sessions are limited to the number of attendees from Spring ISD. Please Register soon to reserve a space. Courses listed above for the initial 30 hours may be used as an update. Courses 3, 4, 5 are typically best to use as an update.</div>					
Annual Update	Course Window: Sept. 2, 2025- Jan. 6, 2026 Click to Register					
Annual Update	Course Window: Sept. 2, 2025- Jan. 6, 2026 Click to Register	This course is designed for educators and professionals seeking to enhance their understanding of how to identify, engage, and support gifted students in today's diverse classrooms. Through the lens of resilience, educators will learn how to nurture well-rounded, confident, and resilient gifted learners, preparing them for success both in and out of the classroom.	RootED in Resilience: Supporting Gifted and Talented Learners with Current Best Practices (G/T Update Course)	Christin Kimball, Spring ISD	Houston Area Cooperative	6
<div>IN PERSON Update Hours</div> <div>CLICK the date to register in STRIVE. AND Click the link to register with the HOST. All COOP Sessions are limited to the number of attendees from Spring ISD. Please Register soon to reserve a space.</div>						
Type	DATE and Strive Link	Description:	TITLE	Presenter	ADDRESS	# of Hours
Job Alike						
Summer Teacher Extravaganza - July 22, 23, 24 - Dekaney High School						
1 hour GT Update	9:30 Session	This session is for GT Update	Tiered Assignments	Shontel Newsome	Summer Teacher	1

	July 22 July 23	credit. Tired of one-size-fits-all lessons? This session breaks down how to create tiered assignments that challenge all learners, connect to real-world skills, and keep gifted students engaged without piling on more work			Extravaganza Dekaney High School	
2 hour GT Update	9:30 Am (2 hours) July 22 July 23	The Icons of Depth and Complexity are a key that unlocks differentiation by allowing students to think at their level. An overview of the icons and practical strategies for their use will be provided in this course. This thinking strategy is appropriate for teachers k-12. It will change the way you teach	An Introduction to the Depth and Complexity Icons	Amy Ellingson	Summer Teacher Extravaganza Dekaney High School	2
1 hour GT Update	10:40 Session July 22 July 23		Understanding G/T Screening and Assessment	Samuel Castilow	Summer Teacher Extravaganza Dekaney High School	1
1 hour GT Update	12:40 Session July 22 July 23	One main goal we have as educators is to help our students be great THINKERS. This session will explore a few ideas to help us facilitate deeper thinking from our students.	Level UP Your Students' Critical Thinking Game	Amy Ellingson	Summer Teacher Extravaganza Dekaney High School	1
1 hour GT Update	12:40 Session July 22 July 23		Help them be their best! G/T Expo Projects	Samuel Castilow	Summer Teacher Extravaganza Dekaney High School	1
1 hour GT Update	1:50 Session July 22	This session is for GT Update credit. Gifted kids feel big and think deep. This session dives	Beyond Smart	Shontel Newsonme	Summer Teacher Extravaganza	1

	July 23	into what's really going on beneath the surface and how we can better support their emotional needs in real, practical ways.			Dekaney High School	
1 hour GT Update	3:00 PM July 22 July 23	Creativity focuses on having original ideas, producing a lot of ideas, and elaborating on ideas presented to us. Helping students to build their creative "muscles" helps them to be learners that think for themselves. This course will explore different ways to help students practice creativity.	Building Creative Thinking in the Classroom (GT Update)	Amy Ellingson	Summer Teacher Extravaganza Dekaney High School	1

Approved ONLINE & OUT OF DISTRICT Sessions

Registration and fees vary. Once the session is completed certificates from outside workshops must be uploaded to KickUp! in order for GT and Non-Contract credit to be awarded.
CLICK HERE FOR KICKUP SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

	DATE	COST	INITIAL / UPDATE	HOST	Register	TITLE	GT Hours
Contact Advanced Academics to inquire if we have free licenses available	Asynchronous	\$90/ (\$60 with discount code)	BOTH	Responsive Learning	CLICK HERE	Initial and update available. *Use coupon code VIP33 for a 33% discount	
	Asynchronous	\$59	Both	Academy	CLICK HERE	Academy.org has several online options	
	various summer dates - in person	\$60	UPDATE	Houston Museum of Natural Science	CLICK HERE	Differentiating with the Museum - Curating Curiosity	
	Asynchronous	\$40	Both	Cosenza & Associates	CLICK HERE	This website has the full 30 hours 3 can be used as an update	
*Contact Advanced Academics to inquire about limited Region 4 funds	Asynchronous	\$50	Both	Region IV	CLICK HERE	Online courses for most initial 30 hours *Early bird prices available. Click here for summer schedule	

	Asynchronous	\$50	Both	Radcliffe & Assoc.	CLICK HERE	Online courses for initial 30 hours . Not all courses on this site are GT.	
	in person or virtual	\$15	UPDATE	Energy Education Foundation	CLICK HERE	various options for teacher K-6th	
	Asynchronous	\$90	UPDATE	Applied Practice	CLICK HERE	Online course made of several topics to make up a 6 hour class	
	June 10-17, 2023 Nacogdoches,, TX	Varies based on stay	UPDATE	Texas Archeologists Field School	https://www.txarch.org/Field-School	Feel free to reach out to SHS teacher John.huntsman@springbranchisd.com or visit the website	
	Various Dates in June 2024-July 2024	Member Adult-\$55.00 Public Adult- \$65.00	UPDATE	Houston Museum of Natural Science	CLICK HERE	Gifted & Talented: Differentiating with the Museum – Questioning & Creativity	
	in person or virtual	free	UPDATE	Texas Wildlife Association	CLICK HERE	zoom, google classroom and hands on activities	
*The courses on this list are all approved by SISD for GT credit but it is not an exhaustive list. Other options for GT training may be available. If you plan to attend courses for GT credit that are not on this list, please check with the Advanced Academics Department to be sure the course will be approved in SISD. For out-of-district courses not on this list we check with TAGT to determine if the course in question has applied for GT awareness credit and use that information to determine if we will honor GT credit in SISD. Questions may be directed to Amy Ellingson (aellings@springisd.org)							
	INITIAL Requirements for Teachers of the Gifted			A 6 hour update course is only needed each year that a teacher is teaching GT students once the initial 30 hours are completed.			
	6 hours in each of the following strands			<div>High School Teachers -</div> <div>DID YOU KNOW: AP Summer Institute, OnRamps Training, NMSI, and IB multi-day training all count for GT hours (12 hours - 6 Creativity and 6 Differentiation). These courses can be used toward part of the GT initial 30 hours</div>			
	NN	Nature/Needs					
	IA	Identification/Assessment					
→ 18 hours of Curriculum Based GT Instruction	DC	Differentiating Instruction for GT students					
	CIS	Creativity/Instructional Strategies					
	DC or SE	Depth and Complexity or Social Emotional					

Alternate Course information

AP Summer Institute

12 hrs. Curriculum based instruction OR >>

OR 6 update

Frequently Asked Questions

Who needs GT training?

-Full training =

- All secondary Advanced Academic Course, AP, DC, IB teachers and all elementary classroom teachers with GT students in their classroom (Math/Science/ELA/SS). All Kinder teachers and all middle school ISC teachers.
- Kinder teacher. Why? You don't have GT identified students until February. It is best practice to have these hours in place before you have GT students. Getting the hours in the spring is difficult.
- 6 Hour GT Update courses are needed each year a teacher is assigned to GT students once the teacher's 30 hours are completed.
- Administrators and counselors need a one-time 6 hour GT course. (NNPO)

What is GT Training?

- The State of Texas required 30 hours of basic awareness training for teachers of gifted children before the start of the school year. (some exceptions apply for late hires)
- The state breaks down training into 3 main topics and SISD breaks that down into FIVE 6 hour courses.(see green box above)
- Every year after you have your initial 30 hours, each year a teacher has GT students they are required to complete a 6 hour GT update course.
- The order in which you take the courses does not matter.

What do I do with my GT Certificates once I have them completed?

If courses are listed in Eduphoria and you are able to register, don't upload a certificate. (Houston COOP Courses)

If you took a course that was not listed in Eduphoria Strive, (Responsive Learning, APSI, Lonestar, Region 4, HMNS, etc.) you will need to upload

-All certificates from GT training outside SISD need to be uploaded into Eduphoria Strive in order to verify compliance with the TEA requirements stated above. Please follow these detailed instructions, [Uploading course requests to Eduphoria](#). If you have questions or need assistance with the process, please reach out to the SISD Advanced Academics team. ** Note credit approval is not immediate. All certificates will be approved at the district then campus level. Please allow 7-10 days processing time before contacting for outstanding approvals.

If I missed a GT update, do I have to re-take my 30 hours?

-No. You only need an update the years you have GT students. You don't need to re-take your 30 hours.

-you should ALWAYS keep your GT records. If you change districts you may need to re-take your 30 hours if you can't prove you have taken them previously. Your PD records are your responsibility.

When is GT Training?

There are many options for training..

-The initial 30 hours are offered as an institute in SISD in the summer and that is what we highly recommend. If that doesn't work, the courses are also offered through the Houston COOP which is a group of 35 districts that combine to bring in presenters to present to large groups of teachers from across the Houston area. For COOP courses, you register in Eduphoria and a link to the course will be listed in the description. During the School year, COOP courses are on Saturdays or asynchronous.

-There are many options for GT updates. There are courses at the Museum of Natural Science and Offshore Energy. Find something that interests you. Please don't keep repeating the initial 30 hours over and over again.