

Leander ISD Middle School Gifted/Talented Service Design - 25-26

The [Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted and Talented](#) includes the Texas Administrative Code's service expectations for districts. This expectation is that gifted and talented students are ensured opportunities to work together as a group, work with other students, and work independently during the school day as well as the entire school year as a direct result of gifted/talented service options (19 TAC §89.3(1)).

Leander ISD's middle school GT services accomplish the state goal through the QUEST Studies elective, acceleration (HS courses in middle school and exams for acceleration for above grade level placement), Advanced courses, collaboration opportunities, and independent study. Middle school GT students must participate in the QUEST studies elective **and/or** at least one of the additional service options listed below to not be furloughed or exited from services based on GT committee recommendations.

QUEST - Quality Utilization and Enrichment of Student Talents - Elective Course

QUEST Studies is Leander ISD's enrichment elective for middle school students taught by a GT trained teacher and designed to meet both the affective and academic needs of the campus's gifted population. The course aims to do the following:

- develop individual talents and strengths of the gifted learner to ensure readiness for self actualization and pursuit of personalized learning pathways in middle, high school, and beyond.
- support students in the transition from elementary to middle and middle to high school.

The QUEST Studies curriculum aims to challenge learners beyond the standard curriculum through an interdisciplinary approach while developing the following affective skills:

self-regulation	mindsets	task persistence	grit	optimism
comfort with competition	collaboration	resilience	intrinsic motivation	strategic risk-taking

Additional Array of Options

GT identified students are provided an array of learning options outside the QUEST elective through a variety of advanced or high school credit courses. Teachers of these courses are encouraged to have the GT 30 hour foundation training and annual 6 hour updates to serve the unique learning and affective needs of gifted learners.




Math (Accelerated)	Science	English (Advanced)	Social Studies (Advanced)
Math 6/7 Math 7/8	Gateway to Technology	Advanced Language Arts - 6th - 8th	Advanced Social Studies - 8th Grade, US History
Advanced Algebra I	MxINC		
Geometry	STEM/CTE Electives		

Course descriptions can be located in the [middle school course catalog](#).

QUEST Curriculum Modules

[QUEST Studies curriculum](#) provides challenging learning opportunities through an interdisciplinary project-based design. Designed to enrich and extend student learning across the four core content areas - English, social studies, math, and science - QUEST Studies develops individual and collaborative strengths while continuing to help students discover their passions and area(s) of strength. Modules are designed to be used with multigrade level class combinations or single level combinations. Campuses elect how they schedule the QUEST elective as it may be paired with other course offerings or may act as a stand alone course.

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QUEST Module	Instructional Model	Students Served
A -  Convergence <i>Perspective, Balance, Point of View</i>	Elective Course or Advisory Class	GT Identified
B -  Origin <i>Discovery, Exploration, and The Journey</i>	Elective Course or Advisory Class	GT Identified
C -  Paradox <i>Challenge, Conflict, Choice</i>	Elective Course or Advisory Class	GT Identified

QUEST Teacher Connections, Collaboration, and Support

- QUEST Studies teachers have collaborative planning and learning times throughout the year.
- QUEST curriculum is on the Middle School Curriculum website.
- QUEST teachers offer instructional support at the campus by sharing instructional strategies that meet gifted learner needs, co-planning in PLC's, and by offering challenge/extension/enrichment labs, etc., to meet campus needs and schedules (*options vary by campus*).
- QUEST teachers offer support by modeling lessons to classroom teachers of advanced courses to ensure differentiation for high ability/GT students to ensure talent development for all learners.
- QUEST teachers along with the campus GT administrator and counselor implement GT testing for referred students during district designated testing windows and lead the GT Determination Committee.

LISD GT Professional Learning Requirements

All QUEST Studies teachers must complete the 30 hour GT foundation training prior to assignment to the class designed to meet GT learner needs. We encourage teachers of advanced or high school courses in the core content to complete the 30 hour GT foundation training. Once completed the training record should be given to the coordinator of gifted services. QUEST Studies teachers will receive annual 6 hour GT updates through their meetings with the district annually. Teachers of advanced or high school courses in the core content with GT learners on their roster are encouraged to get the 6 hour update each year they have GT learners in the general education classroom. The campus QUEST teacher can help facilitate and guide annual updates for teachers.

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