

1. What is the Gifted & Talented (G&T) Program?

The Gifted & Talented (G&T) program is one way that the NYCDOE delivers specialized instruction to support the needs of exceptional students.

Students who obtain an overall G&T score of 90 or above are eligible to apply to District G&T programs. District G&T programs are offered within district elementary schools and prioritize students for admission who live in the local communities served by the school. Students in District G&T programs are grouped together for major subject areas but may be scheduled for other classes (for example, physical education and art) with students who are not in the G&T program.

Students who obtain an overall G&T score of 97 or above are eligible to apply to both District G&T programs and Citywide G&T schools. Citywide G&T schools accept students from all boroughs with no priority given for district of residence. All students in these schools are enrolled in the G&T program; there are no zoned students attending these schools. Citywide G&T schools have school-wide models that implement curricula and instructional practices specifically targeted toward G&T students.

There are some G&T programs that begin in grade 3. Students are admitted to these programs based on multiple measures, including: demonstrated academic performance as evidenced by report card grades; attendance; and gifted behavior indicators such as being highly curious, motivated, and a fast learner.

The NYCDOE is committed to serving all students who qualify for a G&T program, including students with disabilities.

2. Can students with disabilities participate in G&T programs?

Yes. All students—including students with disabilities—entering kindergarten through third grade are encouraged to participate in the G&T admissions process. Students with disabilities who qualify for a G&T program will receive the services and supports they need in the G&T program. A student's disability is not a bar to access to G&T programming, and G&T programming is not a bar to access to special education services. For more information about how the NYCDOE serves students with disabilities, please refer to the [Family Guide to Special Education Services for School-Age Children](#).

3. Is the G&T admissions process blind to disability status?

Yes. Students receive G&T offers subject to performance on eligibility measures and seat availability, without regard to whether they have an IEP (Individualized Education Program), IESP (Individualized Education Services Program), or 504 Accommodation Plan. Students who are recommended for specialized transportation receive specialized transportation to the G&T site. All other students may receive transportation in accordance with the [guidelines](#) set forth by the Office of Pupil Transportation.

4. What happens when a student with a disability accepts a placement in a G&T program?

When a student with an IEP or IESP accepts a placement in a G&T program, the IEP team at the receiving school reviews the student's IEP or IESP, considers the student's strengths and weaknesses, and works with the family to meet the student's needs. Students with IEPs and 504 Plans in G&T programs are

educated alongside their general education peers in the least restrictive environment to the greatest extent possible.

IEP teams will take into account how the high-level instruction the student will receive in the G&T program will meet the student’s academic and social-emotional needs when determining what special education services and supports the student requires in that setting. IEP teams will also ensure that any supports that are put in place to help the student with the transition to a G&T program are documented in the IEP. If changes to services and supports are being contemplated, schools will update evaluations to reflect the student’s current needs.

5. Can students with disabilities receive testing accommodations on the G&T test?

Yes. Students who require testing accommodations, including those who have IEPs, IESPs, or 504 Plans, may be eligible to receive accommodations on the G&T test as long as the accommodations do not change what the test is designed to measure.

The G&T test is untimed for all students, and all students are offered breaks during testing to reduce the amount of time they are required to focus on a single task. The test is administered on a one-to-one basis to pre-kindergarten students, with test administrators acting as scribes.

6. How do families of students with disabilities request testing accommodations on the G&T test?

Families submit a Request for Testing (RFT) if they are interested in having their children take the G&T test. Families may submit an RFT [online](#) or use the RFT form in the [G&T Handbook](#).

Families have the opportunity to request testing accommodations in the “Testing Services Information” section of the RFT, as well as specify the language in which they would like their child to be tested. Families may indicate whether their child needs a large-print testing booklet or any other testing accommodations. Families who select the latter option are contacted directly by the NYCDOE to confirm eligibility to receive the requested accommodations.

Students who currently attend an NYCDOE school (excluding pre-kindergarten students) are tested in their school on a weekday. Testing coordinators consider all of the student’s needs when determining testing accommodations. Students in pre-kindergarten, charter schools, and non-public schools are tested on the weekend. If a student does not have an IEP, IESP, or 504 Plan, the NYCDOE considers other documentation of the need for accommodations.

7. How do families of students with disabilities appeal denial of accommodations?

If families suspect misadministration of the G&T test, including misadministration due to improper implementation of accommodations, they should report it by emailing the Office of Assessment via ServiceCenter@schools.nyc.gov or sending a letter to:

Office of Assessment
G&T Test Administration



Students with Disabilities in the Gifted & Talented Program

Guidance for Families

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44-36 Vernon Boulevard
Room 202
Long Island City, NY 11101

For specific deadlines and policies regarding the appeals process, please refer to the [G&T Handbook](#).

8. How are students with disabilities supported in G&T programs?

The NYCDOE provides students with disabilities the services and supports they need in the G&T program. G&T programs vary across schools in terms of instructional strategies and materials. Students with disabilities are not denied any of these supports because they are in the G&T setting, and they may receive additional supports to help them with the transition to G&T.

9. Can students be evaluated for special education services once in G&T?

Yes. All teachers must identify students who may require special education services and supports, and all students must have access to pre-referral services and evidence-based literacy interventions before a referral for special education services is initiated.

A student in G&T who is suspected of having a disability should be referred for an evaluation. Parents may make this referral. The student's school is responsible for evaluating the student and, if found eligible, developing the IEP. If the student is eligible for special education services, the student may continue in the G&T program and receive special education services and supports.