

*The Classroom Teacher's
Guide to the
EXPO Program
Grades 6 through 8*



Denton Independent School District
Gifted and Talented Program
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I. Grouping

Middle School EXPO students will meet daily with the EXPO Specialist for a core class and will receive a grade for that class.

II. Performance

- A. A student will not be exited from EXPO solely on the basis of grades. If a significant difference occurs in a student's ability to succeed in the regular classroom, a conference will be held with the EXPO Specialist, classroom teacher, student, and parent to determine if the EXPO program continues to be appropriately meeting the student's academic needs.
- B. EXPO performance will be communicated to the parent by the EXPO Specialist.
- C. A furlough may only be requested by the parent and/or student (secondary).

III. Assistance

- A. EXPO Specialists are available to meet with regular classroom teachers at any mutually convenient time.
- B. EXPO Specialists will model particular activities or processes at the request of the classroom teacher.
- C. EXPO Specialists have numerous resources for use with gifted students that are available by request.

IV. Communicating Concerns

- A. Communication regarding campus concerns should be addressed to the EXPO Specialist and/or the principal at the campus level.
- B. Concerns regarding specific students should be communicated to the EXPO Specialist on that campus.
- C. Program concerns should be communicated to the EXPO Program Coordinator.

V. Referral Procedures

- A. Referrals will be accepted by the EXPO Specialist at designated times during the school year. The regular screening sessions are offered once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester. Please check the website for specific testing and referral dates. Students may test only once in a twelve-month period.
- B. Referral forms will be available from the EXPO Specialist at designated times during the school year. Referrals may be submitted by faculty/staff, parents, community members, or self-referral.
- C. Please consider students from diverse backgrounds and with special needs when making your referrals.
- D. Referred students should have such qualities as:
 - 1. rapid insight into new concepts.
 - 2. higher questioning skills than peers.
 - 3. ability to accurately complete assignments faster than peers.
 - 4. advanced sense of humor.
 - 5. boredom with regular classroom work.
 - 6. creative ability that stands out among peers.
 - 7. ability to converse with teacher at a level noticeably higher than peers.

VI. Gifted Training Hours

- A. DISD requires a minimum of the following training for teachers who provide service for our gifted population:
 - 1. 18 hours of gifted curriculum differentiation
 - 2. 6 hours of nature and needs of gifted children
 - 3. 6 hours of identification and assessment of gifted students
- B. The State gifted certification is the preferred credential.
- C. In order to keep the hours current, a teacher must receive an annual 6-hour update in any of the above areas.