

*The Classroom Teacher's
Guide to the
EXPO
Pull-Out Program
K-5*



Denton Independent School District
Gifted and Talented Program
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I. Grouping

- A. When assigning EXPO students to their regular classrooms, it is recommended that they be grouped in small clusters of 3 - 5 per room to allow them to serve as a resource to each other.
- B. Students may be grouped for EXPO instruction in either single or multi-grade instructional arrangements, depending upon the number of students and the scheduling between the EXPO Specialist and the school.
- C. First through fifth grade students will attend EXPO “pull-out” classes for a minimum of 2 ½ hours weekly.
- D. Kindergarten students will be assessed in January and February each year and if placed, will be served beginning no later than March 1st. These placed students will be served for a minimum of 45 minutes per week.

II. Grades

- A. If an assignment is missed in the regular class while the student is attending a EXPO “pull-out” class, a symbol indicating excused (may vary depending on grade book system) may be placed in the grade book to indicate EXPO attendance. The student’s grades are averaged without penalty. For example, if regular students have 5 recorded grades, their grades would be totaled and divided by 5. If an EXPO student had 4 recorded grades and one “excused grade,” his/her grade would be totaled and divided by 4. *(Suggestion from Lena Stiggers, Providence Elementary: When you pass out assignments and the EXPO students are in EXPO, go ahead and put one on their desk. When they return, they are to put their name on it, turn it in, and then when you are grading and recording grades, this helps you remember why it was not completed.)*
- B. The EXPO Specialist will evaluate EXPO students and EXPO progress reports will be sent home to parents every 12 weeks. This will not be part of their classroom grade.

III. Attendance

- A. If a student is identified and placed in EXPO, attendance is expected. Attendance in the EXPO class is not optional once a parent has signed the child’s permission to serve form. If attendance becomes a concern, the need for a furlough should be investigated. In this case, a meeting with the parent should be held by the EXPO Specialist and the classroom teacher.
- B. A furlough may only be requested by the parent and/or student (secondary). A teacher may only refer to the furlough as an option.
- C. The homeroom teacher will maintain daily attendance records.

IV. 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 and parents 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.

V. Homework

A. Work done in the regular classroom during the EXPO "pull-out" time is not to be given as homework. If a student requests this work, it may be provided, but must not be required.

B. Whenever possible, teachers should make every effort to avoid introducing new material while the EXPO student is not in class. However, if new material must be introduced during the EXPO student's absence, the classroom teacher should make this material available to the student and offer any help needed at a mutually convenient time (not during recess or special times).

C. If a student uses EXPO as an excuse for not doing work that was NOT missed during a EXPO "pull-out" class, the EXPO Specialist should be notified so that this situation can be remedied.

VI. Make-Up Work

A common fear of gifted students and their parents is that students will have extra work. This creates the feeling of being punished for being gifted. The EXPO program provides appropriately modified work that encompasses regular content and skills. These students should not be penalized for participating in EXPO.

A. Students are not required to make up work missed in the regular classroom, provided that:

1. the work had not been assigned and instruction provided prior to leaving for EXPO and regular classroom time was given to complete it.

2. the work is not related to an introduction to a new concept or unit that the teacher was unable to schedule when the student could be present and the student is not expected to complete the assignment as homework or make it up during recess.

3. the work does not represent a weak area, in which case the EXPO Specialist and teacher will work together to be certain the skill is mastered during regular classroom time.

4. Please remember that students may show mastery of a skill by completing only a representative portion of a lengthy assignment.

B. It is strongly recommended that all special (library, computer lab, guest speakers, recess) or fun class activities not be reserved for when the EXPO students are away.

VII. 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.

VIII. Tests and Unit Introductions

- A. Classroom teachers should schedule tests during times EXPO students are in the room if at all possible.
- B. Introduction of new materials and/or concepts should be scheduled during times EXPO students are in the room if at all possible.

IX. 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.

X. Referral Procedures (Grades 1 -5)

- A. Referrals may be given to the EXPO Specialist at anytime during the school year. Referral forms will be available from your campus EXPO Specialist. The students will be tested as time permits. Students may test only once in a twelve-month period. Referrals may be submitted by faculty/staff, parents, or community members.
- B. Kindergarten referrals must be received during the published referral period time. Please see the EXPO website for referral periods. www.dentonisd.org/expo
- C. The first testing session will be devoted to testing transfer students who were identified as gifted at their previous school. Kindergarten students will be tested during the third testing session, and 1st – 5th graders will be assessed during all other testing sessions. A limit of 12 students will be tested at a time. Once the limit has been met, other referrals will roll-over to the next session.
- D. Please consider students from diverse backgrounds and with special needs when making your referrals.
- E. 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.

XI. Gifted Training Hours

- A. DISD requires a minimum of the following training for teachers who provide service to 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 Children
- 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.