

## GIFTED AND TALENTED TRAINING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Below you will find answers to questions we are frequently asked concerning required Gifted and Talented training. If you have further questions, please contact the Office of Advanced Academic Studies at (903)262-3498. Thank you!*

*Cindy Woody, TISD Coordinator of Advanced Academics*

### 30 Hour GT Basic Foundation Training

Q. Who is required to take the **30 hours** of basic GT foundation training?

A. All teachers K-12 who provide direct core academic instruction to any student identified as gifted must participate in 30 clock hours of staff development which includes nature and needs of gifted/talented students, assessing student needs, and curriculum and instruction for gifted students. This is a mandate in the state of Texas.

Exempt from this requirement are those employees who are not teachers of record for a core academic subject. That exemption includes support professionals and teachers of elective courses. However, all district employees are encouraged to participate in this training, and campus principals may require additional personnel to attend in order to provide a more advanced education to their students.

Q. How much does the **30-hour** training cost?

A. The training is provided at no cost to TISD employees.

Q. If I completed the **30 hours** of GT foundation training in another district, do I need to repeat the training in TISD?

A. No, you do not need to repeat the training. You may notify your principal and submit your certificate of training through the Eduphoria system. If you cannot locate a certificate to verify your training, please contact the Office of Advanced Academic Studies at (903)-262-3498.

Q. What if I cannot attend the **30-hour** GT basic foundation training during the first week in August?

A. TISD has a cooperative agreement with Education Service Center VII in Kilgore, which offers the same 30-hour training in a face-to-face format and an online format during the summer

and during the school year. Although the Office of Advanced Academics cannot provide substitutes or travel reimbursement for teachers who travel to Kilgore for this training, the training is available at no cost. Those who do not wish to travel to Kilgore may take the same training online through ESC 7, also at no cost. Please seek the approval of your campus principal if you plan to use one of these options to satisfy your training requirement, and be aware that you must submit your training certificate through Eduphoria upon the completion of the 30 hours.

**Q.** What if I cannot complete the **30-hour** requirement during my first year at TISD?

**A.** If you have not completed and documented the 30 hours prior to taking your position as a classroom teacher of a core academic subject and feel that you cannot complete the 30 hours of foundation GT training during your first year at TISD, you must notify your principal that you cannot teach any GT or talent pool students in any of your classes. Teachers who have been assigned to teach identified GT or talent pool students in class must complete the 30-hour requirement within one semester.

**Q.** I passed the TExES exam to earn a GT endorsement for my Texas teaching license. Do I still need the **30 hours** of GT foundation training?

**A.** Yes, all teachers of core academic subjects must complete the required 30 hours of GT basic training.

**Q.** I plan to attend the AP Summer Institute during the first week of August at UT Tyler. Will this satisfy my **30 hour** basic GT training requirement?

**A.** Nearly! If you attend an APSI, you can earn credit for all parts of the 30-hour GT basic except “Module 1: Nature and Needs of Gifted Students” and “Module 2: Identification and Assessment.” You may complete your Module 1 and 2 (also called Day 1 and 2) requirement by attending a Module 1 and Module 2 session at ESC VII in Kilgore or by completing Day 1 and Day 2 online training through ESC VII in Kilgore. Both of these options are free to TISD teachers because of our GT coop agreement. Online training can be completed at your own pace. Be sure to let your principal know how you plan to satisfy your 30-hour requirement, and submit your certificate through Eduphoria upon completion of Module 1 and the AP Summer Institute

**Q.** I was a first-year teacher in 2009-2010. I started my **30-hour** basic GT foundation training but did not complete it this year since I did not teach any GT students and was so busy with my first year of teaching. I plan to finish my 30-hours this summer. Do I still need a **6-hour** GT update?

**A.** No, you do not need a 6-hour annual GT update until you have completed all 30 hours of foundation training.

## Six Hour GT Update

Q. Who has to complete a **6-hour annual update** on gifted and talented education?

A. Once a teacher has completed the required 30-hour foundation training, an annual 6-hour update is required each subsequent year. All classroom teachers of core subjects grades K-12 must complete an annual 6-hour GT update. This is a requirement for all core teachers in the state of Texas.

Q. Who is exempt from the **6-hour GT update** rule?

A. Counselors and administrators must participate in a total of 6 hours of professional development for GT over the course of their careers. They are exempt from the 6-hour annual update rule.

Support professionals who do not provide core academic services (PE, music, art, drama, foreign language, career and technology, and other elective teachers) are not required to attend the 30-hour foundation training or the 6-hour annual update. Paraprofessionals and manual trades employees are not required to participate in GT training.

Q. What does the **annual 6-hour GT update** cost TISD employees?

A. The annual 6-hour update training is provided free of charge to all TISD employees. Additional free opportunities are available (see below).

Q. What are my **6-hour annual update** options?

A. TISD teachers enjoy a range of options for the 6-hour annual update credit:

1. **Summer courses:** TISD Office of Advanced Academics provides several 6-hour annual update opportunities for teachers each summer. These opportunities can be located by searching “Gifted and Talented” under the “Special Populations” tab on Eduphoria.

2. **Campus credit:** Some campus principals use campus staff development time to address matters related to GT services in the regular classroom, such as differentiation techniques, higher order thinking skills, or student engagement strategies. Check with your principal to see if he or she has planned a total of 6 hours of GT staff development for the school year. The hours do not have to be completed on a single day. They must simply add up to a total of 6 hours of professional development in the area of gifted and talented education, and the principal must select “GT Update” as a credit option when entering the training in Eduphoria.

3. **ESC VII in Kilgore:** TISD enjoys a GT cooperative agreement which will allow any TISD teacher to attend any GT course at Region VII Education Service Center in Kilgore. Any 6-hour GT course offered by ESC VII will satisfy your annual GT update requirement. Although the Office of Advanced Academics cannot provide substitute teachers or mileage reimbursement, the courses are free and can be accessed at [https://misweb.esc7.net/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=18](https://misweb.esc7.net/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=18). Be sure to get your principal's approval prior to registration, and submit your certificate of training through Eduphoria after the course is complete.

4. **Online training:** TISD employees may prefer to participate in one of the many online GT courses offered through ESC VII. Any 6-hour GT online course offered through ESC VII will satisfy your annual update requirement. Simply secure your principal's approval prior to registration, complete all course requirements, and submit your certificate through Eduphoria for credit. The courses are free and may be accessed at [https://misweb.esc7.net/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=18](https://misweb.esc7.net/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=18)

5. **AP and IB Training** – You may satisfy your 6 hour annual update requirement by attending any Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate training. All training must be approved by your principal and by the Office of Advanced Academics prior to registration. If you attend training outside of TISD or UT Tyler, you must submit your certificate through Eduphoria to receive credit.

6. **Outside training:** Sometimes employees attend professional development sessions outside of TISD which provide GT credit. Any outside GT credit will count toward the required 6-hour annual update as long as you have your principal's approval and submit your certificate for approval through Eduphoria. The hours do not have to be earned in a single session; they must simply add up to a total of 6 hours per year and must be provided by an approved SBEC provider.

Q. What about summer training? Does the **6-hour annual update** training count for the year we just completed, or the upcoming school year?

A. The professional development calendar for GT training starts in June and ends in May. In other words, if you participate in training in the summer of 2010, you will have satisfied your annual update for the 2010-2011 school year.

Q. I passed the TExES exam to add the GT endorsement to my teaching license, and I have completed the 30 hours of basic training. Do I still need to complete the **annual 6-hour GT update**?

A. Yes, the state law requires all teachers of core academic subjects to complete an annual 6-hour GT update each year after completing their 30 hours of basic training, regardless of license endorsements.

Q. I am coming from another district, and I am not sure I completed my **6-hour annual update** last year in my old district. Do I need to do two updates this year to make it up?

A. No, you are only required to complete one 6-hour update per year. Once you have completed this year's update, you are current again until next year.

Q. I think I have done all the GT training that I need in order to feel like an effective teacher of gifted and talented students. Do I still need to attend the **6-hour annual update** training?

A. The Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students requires all teachers of core subjects to participate in 30 hours of foundation or basic GT training, followed by an annual GT update every subsequent year. This training requirement is not optional for core academic teachers who have gifted students in class.