



Gilbert Public Schools (GPS) “GIFT” Intervention Program for Students

What is the “GIFT” Program?

The GIFT Program is an opportunity for participating students to generate intrinsic value (a gift they provide themselves) for years to come. You probably have heard the following expression:

***Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day;
Show him how to catch fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.***

Every student in the GPS is unique and accordingly takes a slightly different educational journey in their life. Occasionally, a student will miss-step and make a decision that may not be in their best interests. These missteps can significantly alter a student’s educational journey in many different ways. For some, they find themselves moving in uncharted territory, aimlessly trying to latch onto anything that provides them immediate comfort. Others see the miss-step as justification to reassess and redefine better choices for their future. The process of evaluating which path to choose is the essence of the “GIFT” Program. The Program can provide refreshing clarity, that if determined to be valuable by the recipient, can establish insight and purpose in everything they choose to do.

Entitled the GIFT Program (Goals Influencing Future Traits), this intervention will allow students, who have shown that they have not followed expected behavioral guidelines at school, to reflect on the reasons why they didn’t, and outline a plan that they can follow and share with others, as to how they plan on modifying their behavior in the future.

The plan will include activities in the following areas:

- What they believe caused them to receive the behavioral referral? In other words, what did they believe they did was wrong?
- Why did they believe they chose the actions they did, and do they believe it was a wrong choice for them, their family, and their school?
- Define and refine their values in order to establish a foundation for future choices in life.
- Identify goals that they believe would be helpful when they return to school that would assist them in preventing undesirable behavior in the future.
- Identify progress steps (forms of evidence for themselves and others) that they would be able to show that supports them making progress toward their established goals.
- Share and own their plan and progress with the DHO and social workers at their school in order to “vest” their plan with themselves and others.

In traditional restorative justice programs, the offender takes responsibility for their actions and identifies and participates in a plan where they can be accountable to the victims of their actions. The GIFT Program will allow similar responses to occur, initially in a more individual reflective setting, but subsequently allows sharing of their plan with others which vests their proposed actions.

The District Hearing Officer or campus administrator will assign and outline the GIFT Program for students that are believed to benefit from the program. There would be multiple follow-up opportunities with the student after completion of the class, to review the student’s GIFT Program progress and provide support for them in order to be successful moving forward.

The GIFT Program has been created in a Global Academy (Buzz) mini-class format. It consists of four (4) learning modules incorporating twelve (12) assignments and fourteen (14) video segments. The curriculum will assist the student in being able to establish goals and follow-through in both short and long term environments.

The goal is to create an environment where undesirable student behavior is unlikely to occur in the future, with the student returning to an educational environment in a way that they can be more successful.