



GPS Elementary Schools Comparison

With all of the options in Gilbert's Gifted Programs, the Gifted Education Parent Council has put together this flyer to help you make the best decision for your family. Information on the different programs in Gilbert is offered, along with a conversational model to have with your child to help in your decision making process. Please use whatever sections you feel are relevant to your situation.

Conversation Tips:

First, create a mental or paper/pencil inventory of your child's strengths and challenges (for your own information only) to help anticipate questions/areas of concern your child may have. You can use the Gifted Inventory at the following link as a tool for this exercise:

http://gilbert.ss11.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_63480/File/Amber%20-%20Gifted/T%20Inventory%202017.pdf

Next, have a neutral conversation to see how your child feels about the changes and what he or she knows about them. Try to ask open-ended questions without expressing your own opinion. Cookies and milk can encourage this conversation sometimes. 😊

Third, create a Pro/Con list with your child, as appropriate, preferably limited to 3 or fewer school choices.

Areas to consider:

- Siblings – what the best fit is for all children in your family (note: keep in mind that not ALL children must attend the same school)
- Distance/Transportation – adapting to the required transportation methods
- Social – changes to your child's friendships and the effect on his or her school experience
- Staffing – who the child's teacher and principal will be
- Start Times – changes to schedules if the times are different
- After-School Clubs – addition or loss of access to programs that your child is interested in
- Other programs on each campus -- availability of programs that your family needs (special needs resources, VIK)
- Jr High/High School tracking – junior high or high school enrollment differences based on school location

Fourth, turn the lists associated with the choices into bubble maps and attach a feeling to each item. Use the feelings sheet on the back of this sheet to help your child articulate their emotions. Then color code the feelings as positive or negative. For each positive or negative feeling, answer the question: Is it temporary or permanent? (i.e. The regional school has a STEM club weekend trip. This makes me feel excited (positive) because I love science - permanent.)



Before finalizing the decision, allow your family to think about it for a day or two.

Finally, when you have decided, take time to look backward and forward. Remember and memorialize the best of what you've experienced and encourage your child to keep ties with people who have had an impact on him or her. Talk about what excites your child about your choice and what ways you can work with the school to make your child's education fulfilling in the future.

Remember that you can also tour your school choices by calling the principal to set up a time and, if your campus has representative on the Gifted Education Parent Council, he or she is a good resource as well. A list of representatives and contact information can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CjwUiKLai3sXifBLW-Li28rPOORGwCNFYM0dF-Zsgl/edit?usp=sharing>

The ALP pullout program for 4th – 6th grade students is on 15 elementary campuses, called Regional Sites. The remaining schools are Feeder Schools assigned to a Regional Site. Services at Regional Sites will offer pull out programs for 4th – 6th Math and 6th ELA. You can use the chart below to determine the classification of your neighborhood school.

Regional Site	Feeder School	Feeder School	Feeder School
Ashland			
Augusta	Canyon Rim	Boulder Creek	
Finley Farms			
Greenfield			
Oak Tree	Burk	Harris	Houston
Highland Park			
Meridian			
Mesquite El.	Patterson		
Neely			
Pioneer	Carol Rae		
Playa	Islands		
Quartz	Spectrum		
Settlers	Gilbert El.		
Sonoma	Val Vista		
Superstition	Towne		

Regional	Non-Regional/Feeder School
K-3 Cluster Model	K-6 Cluster Model
4-5 Math Pull Out	Contact principal to find out more on acceleration and enrichment program availability
4-5 Cluster Model ELA	
6 Math and ELA Pull Out	

If your family chooses to attend the assigned ALP Regional School Site:

- This will become your new home school.
- Transportation will be provided. Prior to the start of school, the Transportation Department will notify you of the location of your bus stop.
- Siblings may attend the regional site and ride the bus.

If your family chooses not to attend the ALP Regional School Site:

Feeder Schools will continue to provide gifted services to identified students through the Cluster Model. This is the current service model for all students identified as gifted in K-3, 4th and 5th ELA, and 6th grade non-verbal.

Additional information on the Cluster Model can be found on the Gilbert Public Schools website at the following location: <http://gilbert.ss11.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=63564&pageId=118984> as well as by contacting the principal of the school for specific details.

Two additional elementary options exist. Details are listed in the table below.

Area of Consideration	Neely Traditional Academy	Towne Meadows Self-Contained Gifted (SCG) Program
Is an application process required?	Yes, with a lottery if needed	Yes, with a lottery if needed
What classes are offered for gifted students?	Advanced Math 3-6 Advanced ELA 4-6 Advanced Sci/SS 6 Depending on class size, Advanced Math may be offered in 1-2	4-6th grade program Offers Math up to 8th grade
Location?	321 W Juniper Ave, Gilbert 85233	Towne Meadows Elementary School 1101 N. Recker Rd., Gilbert, AZ 85234
Entrance Requirements?	None	Two scores of 97 or above and one score of 85 or above on the CoGAT or IQ of 130+
Are advanced classes exclusive to gifted-identified students?	Yes, although all students are expected to work 1 year ahead of district standards.	Yes
Curriculum	Spalding, Saxon Math, McGraw-Hill Treasures, Literature Studies, and Springboard (Advanced 6th) ELA	Harcourt Math, Clay Thompson (grammar), College of William & Mary (ELA), Literature studies
Gifted endorsement required for teachers?	Yes, for Advanced classes	Yes
Are the Advanced classes cross-curricular (teachers collaborate on lessons and assignments across subject areas)?	Yes, 6th grade only	Yes
Are the staff who work with gifted students trained in the social/ emotional needs of gifted students?	Yes	Yes
Is there 2e/ special education support on campus?	Yes	Yes
Daily homework?	Yes, Spalding and Math, some projects	Projects, math and unfinished classwork
Are students required to wear uniforms?	No	No
What is the class size?	13-33 depending on subject and grade level, 25-30 in general classrooms	Class size is capped at 25 students
What is the school campus population?	800	720
Are after school clubs offered?	Yes	Yes
Is there an open house for incoming students?	No, but individual tours are offered	Yes
Extra curricular sports offered?	Yes	Yes
Transportation?	Regional Bus Stops	Regional Bus Stops