For our 40th anniversary, we’re moving to 100 percent online enrollment!

Educator Guide

Help your gifted and talented students reach their full potential by inviting them to join Duke TIP

New invitation inside!

Duke TIP
Duke University Talent Identification Program

7TH GRADE TALENT SEARCH 2019–2020
Support your brightest students

How do you engage and support a student who has already mastered grade-level material while still meeting the needs of your other students? The Duke University Talent Identification Program can help.

Duke TIP is a nonprofit. Since 1980, we’ve partnered with educators to identify, recognize, and meet the needs of academically talented students. As experts in the field of gifted education, we are here to share our programs, research, and resources with you.

We partner with ACT and SAT to provide exceptional students and their families with above-grade-level testing that helps them learn about their abilities. As part of their enrollment, TIP registers all 7th Grade Talent Search members for one of these college admissions exams. Participants also receive special recognition, customized publications, enrichment activities, membership in TIP’s online communities, research-based advice, and access to challenging educational programs.

It Starts with You

Students join TIP by enrolling in our 7th Grade Talent Search. But as a nonprofit organization, we depend on educators like you to identify the students who would benefit from our offerings. Your role in the process is to identify qualified students and notify them of this opportunity. Once students accept our invitation and enroll in TIP, they can use our benefits to get additional, challenging educational experiences they may need to reach their full potential.

Financial Aid

Duke TIP is committed to serving academically talented students, no matter their family’s income level. One hundred percent of our revenues go to funding our programs and providing financial aid for students in need. In fact, we awarded over $4.1 million in need-based financial aid last year.

For the 7th Grade Talent Search, the $80 enrollment fee is reduced to $30 for any student who is eligible for free or reduced lunch. This reduced fee includes an ACT or SAT test registration.

We provide a financial aid form at tip.duke.edu/7toolkit and on page 5 of this guide that you can fill out and print on school letterhead for families, or they can submit a copy of their free or reduced lunch approval paperwork directly to TIP when they enroll.

Use Title 1 or Special Funding

Many schools choose to pay their students’ enrollment fees using local Title 1 or other special program funding. This year, we’re offering a new group enrollment system to make doing so even easier. Schools can now request a unique group code that their students can enter when enrolling online. Educators will be able to track their students’ enrollments online, making it even easier on you. Visit tip.duke.edu/7notify under the section “Paying for students” for more information on how to pay for your students’ enrollments.

Learn even more about our 7th Grade Talent Search and educator support at tip.duke.edu/7educator.
How Above-Grade-Level Testing Helps

Grade-level exams can only measure whether students have mastered grade-level material—they can’t tell you how far above grade level a student’s abilities might go. But an above-grade-level test can.

That’s why Duke TIP offers its 7th Grade Talent Search participants the opportunity to take either the ACT or SAT in seventh grade. Because they are designed for college-bound high school students, these exams are an essential diagnostic tool for younger gifted students, often revealing important nuances about their academic strengths and educational needs. In fact, at most test center locations, seventh graders will be testing alongside high school students.

Talent search members select one test (either the ACT or SAT) as part of their Duke TIP enrollment; then we register them for their selected test. In addition, these scores are used to qualify students for TIP’s annual recognition ceremonies, as well as our accelerated summer educational programs. See the test dates table on page 3 for information about the timing of TIP’s ceremonies and summer programs.

Fees

For a onetime, nonrefundable enrollment fee of $80 ($30 if the student is eligible for free or reduced lunch), 7th Grade Talent Search participants become members of Duke TIP and receive one ACT or SAT test registration, along with a variety of other benefits through the end of high school.
YOUR ROLE

Your Role: A Step-by-Step Guide

1. **Step 1: Identify qualified students**

Duke TIP’s 7th Grade Talent Search is open to *current seventh-grade students* (or eighth-grade students who skipped the seventh grade) who qualify through one of these four methods:

1. Scoring at or above the 95th percentile on an accepted national standardized grade-level achievement or abilities test
2. Scoring at or above the 95th percentile on a grade-level state assessment
3. Scoring 125 or above (full scale or composite) on an accepted IQ test
4. Receiving an educator recommendation if they haven’t tested or you believe they would benefit based on other factors. On the invitation, indicate “educator recommendation” as the qualifying test name and leave subtest and score blank.

**Please note:**

- Duke TIP accepts scores from a wide variety of national and state assessments. You can find the accepted tests, subtests, and qualifying scores for all of them using our easy look-up tool at [tip.duke.edu/7identify](http://tip.duke.edu/7identify).
- Students only need to qualify on one accepted subtest to be eligible for the program.
- Students may qualify using scores from *any time in the past two years*. If 2018–2019 sixth-grade test results for your state haven’t been released by September 2019, we recommend using 2017–2018 fifth-grade scores. Tests taken this year as a seventh grader may be used, as well.
- Because state assessment schedules vary and results are often delayed, be sure to keep your contact information current at [tip.duke.edu/schoolupdate](http://tip.duke.edu/schoolupdate) so we can keep you updated on qualifying scores in your state!

**Testing Exceptions**—Visit [tip.duke.edu/7exceptions](http://tip.duke.edu/7exceptions) for information about testing accommodations for students with disabilities or for those who need a Sunday test date for religious reasons.

2. **Step 2: Notify students of their eligibility**

Once you’ve identified your students, it’s time to let them know they are eligible to join Duke TIP. We provide a number of resources to make it easy for you. **NEW this year: to simplify the process for you, we have combined the student invitation and Duke TIP information on a single flyer you can distribute to qualifying students (see insert). There are no more paper applications to worry about either—we’re using 100 percent online enrollment now.** All you have to do is personalize the invitation with the student’s name and qualifying test score information. Families will need this information to complete the online enrollment.

Give each eligible student the personalized invitation to take home to their parents. In addition, students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch should also receive a financial aid form (see page 5). Once you have handed out the information, it is up to the families to enroll their student online on Duke TIP’s website at [tip.duke.edu/enroll](http://tip.duke.edu/enroll).

Visit [tip.duke.edu/schoolupdate](http://tip.duke.edu/schoolupdate) to request more invitations, or [tip.duke.edu/7toolkit](http://tip.duke.edu/7toolkit) to download the invitation, financial aid form, instructions, and more (in English and Spanish and in merge-able formats). If you find it easier to photocopy the financial aid form and fill it out by hand, it is located on page 5 of this guide.

3. **Step 3: Celebrate your school’s TIP participants**

If you like, your school may choose to hold a local awards assembly in the spring to honor your TIP participants. You may request a list of your enrollees at any time by emailing [7talentsearch@tip.duke.edu](mailto:7talentsearch@tip.duke.edu). We also provide a sample ceremony script and a certificate template at [tip.duke.edu/7toolkit](http://tip.duke.edu/7toolkit). Recognizing your TIP students is a great way to show your students, families, and community that you value academic achievement and support your gifted students.
Test Dates and Deadlines

Be sure to identify and notify early

Enrollment is open from August 1, 2019, through April 30, 2020, but we recommend that you identify and notify your qualifying students as early as possible so they have enough time to sign up for the test date they prefer.

Because students select their test date when they enroll in TIP, notifying them as early as possible provides them with:

- more ACT and SAT dates to choose from
- better chances of receiving their first-choice test center
- the opportunity to test in time to qualify for ceremonies and TIP programs this summer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEST</th>
<th>TEST DATE</th>
<th>ONLINE ENROLLMENT DEADLINE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>10/26/19</td>
<td>10/4/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>11/2/19</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>12/7/19</td>
<td>11/4/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>12/14/19</td>
<td>11/22/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>2/8/20</td>
<td>1/17/20</td>
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**Recognition Ceremonies**—TIP conducts recognition ceremonies for students with exceptional ACT or SAT scores. Students interested in attending a ceremony are encouraged to test by February. Students who achieve qualifying scores through March testing will still receive a ceremony invitation but may have fewer ceremony location options. Qualified students who are unable to attend a ceremony, or who test after March, will receive their medal in the mail over the summer.

**Summer Programs**—When you test doesn’t impact your eligibility for educational programs. However, as TIP’s summer programs fill quickly, TIP strongly recommends testing no later than the end of February if you are interested in attending a summer program in 2020.

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<tr>
<th>TEST</th>
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<th>ONLINE ENROLLMENT DEADLINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>3/14/20</td>
<td>2/10/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>4/4/20</td>
<td>3/13/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>5/2/20</td>
<td>3/30/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>6/6/20</td>
<td>4/30/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>6/13/20</td>
<td>4/30/20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maximizing your benefits

Testing by February allows students to maximize their potential benefits and ensure their scores are received at TIP prior to the opening of the summer program application and ceremony registration.

Learn more about the ACT and SAT, including how to choose which test to take, test center locations, and how to prepare, at tip.duke.edu/7tests.
Benefits

The following benefits are included with the onetime enrollment fee.

**Above-Grade-Level Testing** | Grade 7
[tip.duke.edu/7above](http://tip.duke.edu/7above)
The 7th Grade Talent Search enrollment fee provides participants with membership in Duke TIP and one test registration for the ACT (no writing) or SAT (no essay), along with a results summary to help interpret their scores. See page 1 for more on testing.

**Recognition** | Grade 7
[tip.duke.edu/ceremonies](http://tip.duke.edu/ceremonies)
We celebrate students by awarding certificates and medals and hosting ceremonies for qualified students. We also give educators tools to recognize students at their schools.

**Insights** | Grades 7–12 |
[tip.duke.edu/insights](http://tip.duke.edu/insights)
This online monthly publication for gifted students explores new subjects through feature articles, interviews with experts, and opportunities for TIPsters to contribute.

**College Planning Advice** | Grades 7–12
[tip.duke.edu/readyforcollege](http://tip.duke.edu/readyforcollege)
We offer online publications that guide gifted students through college planning and include advice from TIP alumni.

**Connections to Other Opportunities** | Grades 7–12
[tip.duke.edu/opportunity-guide](http://tip.duke.edu/opportunity-guide)
We share advice and resources that families can use to find programs, contests, and scholarships of special interest to high-achieving students.

**Gifted Today** | Grades 7–12
[giftedtoday.org](http://giftedtoday.org)
This online publication for educators and parents includes recent research findings, an extensive library of articles, advice from experts, and other news from the field of gifted education.

**Educational Guidance** | Grades 7–12
Email: 7talentsearch@tip.duke.edu
Parents and teachers of talent search participants have access to TIP’s experienced gifted education experts via email or phone when they need guidance.

**Recognition** | Grade 7
[tip.duke.edu/ceremonies](http://tip.duke.edu/ceremonies)
We celebrate students by awarding certificates and medals and hosting ceremonies for qualified students. We also give educators tools to recognize students at their schools.

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**TIP’s Educational Programs**

The 7th Grade Talent Search is an entry point to many TIP educational programs. Our educational programs charge additional fees, but financial aid is available. Some programs have minimum ACT or SAT score requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 7</th>
<th>Grade 8</th>
<th>Grade 9</th>
<th>Grade 10</th>
<th>Grade 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Studies Program</td>
<td>Three-week accelerated summer residential program. <a href="http://tip.duke.edu/ssp">tip.duke.edu/ssp</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholar Weekends</td>
<td>Intensive two-day program. <a href="http://tip.duke.edu/scholar">tip.duke.edu/scholar</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>eStudies</td>
<td>Seven-week accelerated online summer program. <a href="http://tip.duke.edu/estudies">tip.duke.edu/estudies</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FINANCIAL AID FORM

DIRECTIONS: Students requesting financial aid for the 7th Grade Talent Search must present Duke TIP with written verification that they qualify for free or reduced lunch at your school. They must submit this form on school letterhead or provide a copy of their free or reduced lunch approval paperwork. Educators may list all eligible students on one financial aid form or attach a list. Submit by upload, email, fax, or mail (see step 4 below). This form is also available in an editable Word version in both English and Spanish at tip.duke.edu/7toolkit.

Date: _____________________________________

Re: Financial Aid Form for the 2019–2020 Duke TIP 7th Grade Talent Search

To Whom It May Concern:

This financial aid form certifies that the student listed below is eligible to receive financial aid from the Duke University Talent Identification Program for participation in the 7th Grade Talent Search. This form does not certify that the student listed below takes part in the free or reduced lunch program, only that he/she is eligible under program guidelines.

A reduced fee of $30 is still required for enrollment, and enrollment is not complete until payment is made.

Student Name: ________________________________________________

______________________________

Sincerely,

______________________________

Print Name of Counselor, Teacher, or School Official

______________________________

Signature of Counselor, Teacher, or School Official

INSTRUCTIONS:

Carefully follow this step-by-step process:

Step 1: Create a new account or log into your existing account at tip.duke.edu/enroll and select and fill out the 7th Grade Talent Search enrollment.

Step 2: Check the box on the financial aid page that indicates the student is eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Step 3: Finish the talent search enrollment by submitting a payment of $30 by Discover, MasterCard, Visa or eCheck.

Step 4: Submit this financial aid form by only one of the following four methods.

- Upload: scan this financial aid form and upload at tip.duke.edu/7upload
- Email: scan or photograph this financial aid form and send by email as an attachment to 7talentsearch@tip.duke.edu
- Fax: (919) 668-9139
- Mail: Duke TIP 7th Grade Talent Search Financial Aid, 300 Fuller Street, Durham, NC 27701

______________________________

Name of School

______________________________

City and State
Looking for More Information?

To request talent search invitations, update contact information, and sign up for email announcements, visit tip.duke.edu/schoolupdate.

Have an eighth grader who missed the opportunity to participate in the 2018–2019 7th Grade Talent Search? Contact us at 7talentsearch@tip.duke.edu to learn about an alternate program option.

If you’re looking for support and resources, visit Teachers Workshop at teachersworkshop.org. This blog and community space is a place where educators of the gifted can find guidance on everyday teaching challenges, tips to inspire instruction, and free classroom-ready lessons and materials.

Did you know that Duke TIP also has a talent search for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders?

Go to tip.duke.edu/456gts to learn more.

Enrollment for the 4th–6th Grade Talent Search opens October 1.