



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gifted And Talented Education Program

Frequently Asked Questions

How does my child get nominated for GATE?

Students may be nominated for screening by parents or teachers. Parents are encouraged to discuss student potential for possible GATE identification with their child's teacher. In order to be tested, parents must fill out the on-line referral by the testing deadline, which is December 2, 2016. Parents of private school students are also expected to submit the on-line referral by the above noted deadline.

What criterion qualifies my child for GATE?

Students qualify for GATE identification both in ability and in performance.

For students in grades 2-6 (entering grades 3-7)

There are two categories of identification in these grades. The first is the *"High Intellectual."* For a student to be identified in this category, he or she **must meet** the following criteria:

- A score in the 95th percentile or higher on a school ability exam ~ Orange Unified currently uses the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) for 4th-6th grade and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) for 2nd-3rd grade
- Student achievement records that exhibit high levels of performance
- Lexile Score in the Advanced or High Proficient Range as determined by either *Scholastic Reading Inventory* or *Accelerated Reader*
- Quantile Score in the Advanced or High Proficient Range as determined by the *Scholastic Math Inventory*
- A strong recommendation from the student's current classroom teacher as indicated by the *Student Profile of Gifted Characteristics*

***Students who qualify for "High Intellectual" are given priority for enrollment in the GATE Magnet classrooms.**

The second is *"High Achievement."* For a student to be identified in this category, a review of the following criteria is evaluated for qualification:

- A score in the 90th percentile or higher on a school ability exam ~ Orange Unified currently uses the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) for 4th-6th grade and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) for 2nd-3rd grade
- Student achievement records that exhibit strong levels of performance
- Recommendation from the student's current classroom teacher as indicated by the *Student Profile of Gifted Characteristics*
- Lexile Score in the High Proficient Range as determined by either *Scholastic Reading Inventory* or *Accelerated Reader*
- Quantile Score in the High Proficient Range as determined by the *Scholastic Math Inventory*

TESTING

What is the timeline for GATE testing?

Screening will start the week of January 30, 2017 and continue through March 03, 2017. Testing will take place at the school sites and the schedule will be posted on this website by mid-January. If a student should be ill during the designated testing time, make-ups will be arranged with the principal by the GATE office. The testing for private school students will be facilitated over two days:

Saturday, February 25, 2017 and Saturday, March 04, 2017. Due to the length of the exam, 2nd and 3rd graders must attend **both** testing dates, while 4th-6th graders will be tested on **Saturday, March 04, 2017**. Testing will start at 9:00 a.m. at the district office. There is a \$25.00 testing fee, payable by cash or check, for all private school students. A reminder email will be sent out to all registered private school families in early January.

How many tests will my child need to take?

Students will take one ability test yet, the test for 2nd and 3rd graders consists of three parts, which is taken over three days. The 4th -6th grade test is a timed test and consists of approximately 70 questions.

What happens if my child does not meet GATE identification criteria?

Students who do not meet the eligibility criteria may be re-evaluated in future grade levels.

Is it possible to see my child's results after the test?

Test scores will be mailed to the parents from the curriculum office by the end of April. These are percentile scores and have been normed on a national scale.

What kind of test is the GATE identification test?

Orange Unified School District uses national normed cognitive abilities tests to assess the verbal and nonverbal reasoning potential. The reasoning potential is strongly related to school success. However, this is a not a test for which a student can study.

To assess reasoning potential, the test uses tasks such as detecting likeness and differences, recalling words and numbers, defining words, following directions, classifying, establishing sequence, solving arithmetic problems, and completing analogies. This is done because these tasks have been shown to be a valid measure of an individual's ability to reason logically.

What are the differences between Ability Tests and Achievement Tests?

An Ability test is a test of general reasoning skills, which is the type of test used for identifying gifted students. An Achievement test is a test of developed skill or knowledge, such as the former California Standards Tests (CST's) and Benchmarks or those used in classrooms to check progress.

IDENTIFICATION

Does my child lose identification if he/she does not attend a GATE Magnet school?

Once a child has been identified for GATE, they will keep the identification even if they do not choose to attend a GATE Magnet school. The majority of our students do not attend a Magnet school.

If my child was identified in another school district or state or by a private licensed psychologist, does he/she automatically qualify for the GATE Program in Orange Unified School District?

GATE is not a mandated program in California. Therefore, each district develops its own criteria for evaluation. For a student who has been identified as a GATE student in another California public school district, a record of the school ability test results must be sent to the GATE Office to be reviewed by the Administrative Director of Curriculum and Instruction prior to enrollment. Students are expected to meet the same rigorous criteria noted above. Orange USD **does not** accept out of state GATE identification of students or results from a private clinical or licensed educational psychologist.

Will my elementary school child need to be re-tested upon entering middle school? High school?

No, once a child is identified, the identification remains valid through grade 12. All traditional OUSD high schools have Honors and Advanced Placement classes open to all students. Eighth grade students who were not previously GATE identified and apply to high school Honors courses will be accepted according to academic performance and standardized achievement tests in eighth grade. Depending on space available at each high school site, GATE identification is not required for acceptance into Honors and advanced level high school classes.

PLACEMENT

If my child is offered a seat in one of the GATE Magnet Schools, which school would he/she attend?

Crescent Elementary

5001 Gerda Drive.

Anaheim, CA 92807

Principal: Randi Leach

Feeder Schools: Anaheim Hills, Canyon Rim, Crescent, Imperial, Running Springs

La Veta Elementary

2800 East La Veta Avenue.

Orange, CA 92869

Principal: Lydia Roach

Feeder Schools: Chapman Hills, Esplanade, Jordan, La Veta, Linda Vista, Panorama, Prospect

Nohl Canyon Elementary

4100 Nohl Canyon Road
Anaheim, CA 92807
Principal: Amy Hitt

Feeder Schools: Fletcher, Nohl Canyon, Olive, Serrano, Taft, Villa Park

Palmyra Elementary

1325 E. Palmyra Ave.
Orange, CA 92869

Principal: Brenna Godsey

Feeder Schools: California, Cambridge, Fairhaven, Handy, Lampson, Palmyra, Sycamore, West Orange

***Please Note that GATE identified students are not given priority at any of the above noted Magnet programs on the basis of the Magnet being their home school. Students are placed in each of the Magnets based on their SAI score/percentile ranking.**

Can my child be waitlisted for another GATE magnet school if we don't want to go to our designated magnet school?

Yes. However, all feeder school students will be placed there before openings are offered to waitlisted students.

If my child is offered a space in the GATE Magnet and declines it, will he/she have an opportunity for a space in future years?

Yes, if space in the Magnet is available. If there is no space, students will be placed at the bottom of the waitlist despite their percentile ranking. This allows for equity and access for all GATE identified students. It is imperative that families understand that there are waitlists for most Magnet programs thus, the decision on accepting a Magnet placement when offered is critical.

Is transportation provided by the district for my child to the GATE Magnet school site?

No, parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from the GATE school location.

Can siblings of GATE identified students attend the same school site?

Siblings of GATE identified students may enroll in the same school site as long as space is available. Parents will need to work with the school principal on placement.

Will my child have the opportunity to visit the GATE magnet school?

Qualified students and their parents will receive an invitation to the GATE orientation at their designated GATE magnet school with their acceptance letter. The letter will denote if the student has secured a seat in the classroom or has been waitlisted. Please note that some wait list parents do not feel that it is in the best interest for their child to attend the orientation, as they may be disappointed if they do not secure a place in the GATE Program. So we ask that families use their best judgment.

What happens if my child qualifies for the GATE program but is waitlisted because the class is full?

The vast majority of GATE Identified students in grades 3-6 are served in “cluster” groups within the general education classroom. Students receive grade-level appropriate differentiated instruction where elements of acceleration, complexity, depth, and novelty are infused into the core curriculum where applicable. Teachers across OUSD have been participating in professional development aimed at meeting the needs of the advanced learner.

How do you decide who gets into the GATE classes and who is waitlisted?

In a situation where there are more qualified GATE students than openings in a GATE Magnet class, priority goes to students in order of their Student Ability Index (SAI) score/percentile. Students with a higher SAI score will be placed first.

INSTRUCTION

How is a GATE class different than a general education class?

In GATE classrooms, instruction is differentiated. Differentiation does not mean more of the same work. Rather, it is an extension of the core curriculum. Four popular ways to accomplish this differentiation are acceleration, adding depth, increasing complexity, and providing opportunities for novelty. While the same district adopted textbooks are used, additional materials are incorporated to enhance the curriculum. Instructional decisions are made by the classroom teacher based on the needs of the students in the class.

What if we want our GATE identified student to stay at their home school?

Students identified as GATE may decide to remain in attendance at their home school. In fact, a large majority of identified GATE students do remain at their home schools due to the caliber of instruction that is provided. Every attempt is made to cluster GATE students together by grade level at their home school. Differentiation of instruction is facilitated to meet the needs of each GATE student within the clustered classroom.

Do GATE Magnet students stay in the same classroom all day?

Each GATE teacher is a specialist in a certain content area (i.e. Math, Science, Social Studies) and the students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade rotate between GATE teachers for these subjects. 3rd grade GATE is self-contained.

Are the GATE Magnet students isolated or do they get to associate with other general education students?

GATE students are not isolated and share the same recess and lunch times as general education students. They also attend the same field trips and assemblies as their grade level peers.

My child is involved in several extracurricular activities. Will the added rigor of this program be too much for him/her?

Many successful GATE students participate in extracurricular sports, music, and other programs. However, most students find they need some unscheduled time during the day and/or week to maintain a healthy attitude and perform at their best.

How much homework will my child receive?

Several factors influence the amount of time a child will spend on homework including whether a student is involved in a long term project, in addition to the daily assigned work; the accelerated pace of the program; and how well the student uses class time to complete assignments during the day. In any given GATE classroom, some students will finish homework in a relatively short time, while other will take much longer. In general, students with good time management skills find the amount of homework to be fair.

If a child does not do well in the GATE class, can they go back to their home school?

Occasionally, teachers and parents working together determine that the GATE Program is not a good match for a particular child. If a student is struggling in the GATE classroom, the parents, teacher, and principal should collaboratively determine what next steps would be in the best interest of the student.