

# **Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q) What is GATE?**

- A)** GATE is an acronym for Gifted and Talented Education. In 1993, the U.S. Department of Education defined gifted and talented students as “Children who perform at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience or environment.”

A gifted person is someone who shows, or has the potential for showing an exceptional level of performance in one or more areas of expression. Some of these abilities are very general such as leadership skills or the ability to think creatively. Some are very specific talents and are only evident in particular circumstances, such as a special aptitude for mathematics, science or music. It is generally recognized that approximately 5% of the student population in the United States are considered gifted. These children exhibit high performance capability in intellectual, creative and/or artistic areas, possess an unusual leadership capacity, or excel in specific academic fields. Outstanding talents are present in children and youth from all cultural groups, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

**Q) What schools offer a GATE program?**

- A)** Since it is likely that all teachers will have GATE students in their classrooms, it is essential to continue to develop the GUSD staff’s knowledge and skills in implementing differentiation strategies and instruction to meet the needs of the gifted. The continuum of services provided by the district begins at the elementary level and continues through high school as part of the regular classroom and appropriate groupings. Each of the eight elementary sites has a unique population and offers a variety of services. The three middle schools and two high schools provide grouping according to academic achievement and interest.

Elementary Sites

- One district magnet, Rucker Elementary, is accessible to all 3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> grade identified GATE students with three self-contained classrooms
- Elementary schools offer cluster and flexible grouping within the regular classroom and at the site
- Elementary schools have special interest offerings as determined by each site and reported in their GATE site plans

### Middle School

- Special interest offerings as determined by each site and reported in site GATE plans
- Accelerated classes for students scoring at advanced levels on the District Assessments
- 6th through 8th grade GATE strands at Brownell

### High School

- 9th and 10th grades offer Honors for any student who desires higher level academic instruction, has high test scores, or is identified gifted
- 10th, 11th, and 12th grades offer a variety of electives which are all college prep, Honors classes, AP classes in calculus, statistics, biology, environmental science, government economics, and Spanish

**Q) How are GATE students identified?**

- A)** All GUSD students have one or more opportunities to be screened for GATE. All second grade students are given the Raven's Progressive Matrices Plus (SPM+) test in the spring. Students in third, fourth or fifth grade that are new to the district have the opportunity to be screened in the fall. Middle School students that are new to the district can be referred by teachers or administrators to the District GATE Office for screening.

Multiple measures are used to determine GATE eligibility. Below is a chart with the different eligibility criteria:

Qualifying Categories	RAVENS SPM Percentile	GUSD Benchmarks	OLSAT (to be administered when first 2 criteria met)	Eligibility
1	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N/A	N/A	Certified
2	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	In the following two areas, student must score Advanced in both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELA --Average of Benchmarks 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Math --Average of Benchmarks 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>	N/A	Certified
3	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	In the following three areas, student must score Advanced in <u>one area</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELA --Average of Benchmarks 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Math --Average of Benchmarks 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Writing – Average of Writing Tasks 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile or higher	Certified
	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	In the following three areas, student has <b>NO</b> score of Advanced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELA --Average of Benchmarks 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Math --Average of Benchmarks 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Writing – Average of Writing Tasks 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>		Not Certified or qualified to appeal
4	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	In the following three areas, student must score <u>Advanced in one area and Proficient or higher in the other two areas</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELA --Average of Benchmarks 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Math --Average of Benchmarks 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Writing – Average of Writing Tasks 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile or higher	Certified
	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	In the following three areas, student has <u>NO Advanced scores</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELA --Average of Benchmarks 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Math --Average of Benchmarks 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Writing – Average of Writing Tasks 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>		Not Certified or qualified to appeal
	50 <sup>th</sup> percentile and below			Not Certified or qualified to appeal

**Q) What if my student wasn't identified in the second grade but we think he/she is gifted. Can he/she be re-evaluated?**

**A)** A request to re-screen a student may be made two years after the initial participation in the screening process.

**Q) Who is part of the GATE evaluation team?**

**A)** Members of the GATE Certification Committee may include:

- School principal
- District GATE Administrator
- Other personnel, as appropriate

**Q) How much funding does GUSD allocate for the GATE program?**

**A)** All schools in GUSD receive funds for GATE services based on a per pupil amount. Please see the 2016-17 table below:

<b>Total</b>		<b>51,320</b>
<b>Less:</b>		<b>-</b>
<b>Less: Assessment</b>		<b>-</b>
<b>Allocation to Sites</b>		<b>51,320</b>
<b>2016-17 Projected Allocation</b>		
School	Location	
Gilroy High School	21	7,380
Christopher High School	26	11,940
Mt. Madonna/Advanced Path	22	500
Gilroy Early College Academy	29	1,740
		<b>\$ 21,560</b>
South Valley Jr. High	31	1,920
Brownell	32	6,800
Solorsano	33	3,600
		<b>\$ 12,320</b>
Antonio del Buono	40	500
Eliot	41	500
El Roble	42	720
Glen View	43	840
Las Animas	44	2,040
Rucker	45	7,920
Luigi Aprea	47	3,360
Rod Kelley	49	1,560
		<b>\$ 17,440</b>
<b>Total Site Allocation</b>		<b>\$ 51,320</b>
<b>Balance Available</b>		<b>-</b>

**Q) What are some of the approved expenditures for GATE funds at a school site?**

A) The following list of approved expenditures comes from the California Department of Education GATE Resource Guide:

- Professional development that focuses on meeting the needs of advanced students (in-house, institutes, consultants, conferences).
- Professional development on differentiating curriculum for mixed ability classrooms, cluster groups, part-time grouping, or self-contained classes.
- Stipends for teachers who serve GATE students beyond contract time (zero period, after school, before school, prep time).
- Technology and software to support curriculum specifically to meet the needs of the gifted students in accordance with the district plan.
- Supplementary textbooks and supplies for honors and AP classes, self-contained GATE classrooms, cluster groups or individual students, part-time groups.
- Participation in educational experiences appropriate for GATE students, such as Odyssey of the Mind, Science Olympiad, Academic Decathlon, even if some of the participating students are not identified as GATE students.
- Transportation and admission for study trips determined by the district to be appropriate.
- Scholarships for gifted students to attend special events or classes.

**Q) What expenses are not allowable?**

A) The following expenditures are not allowed:

- Salaries and benefits for teachers of self-contained GATE classrooms, honors classes, and AP classes conducted during the regular contract day.
- Basic textbooks and supplies generally provided to all students.
- Equipment and special supplies that are intended for use by the whole school.

**Q) If my GATE student is going to go to another district, will that GATE certification go with him/her?**

**A)** Parents may request that identification information from the District GATE Office be provided to another district although GATE criteria are specific to each district's process. In addition, there is a notice of GATE Qualification in the student's CUM folder which will be forwarded to the receiving district when it is requested from GUSD.

**Q) What are my choices if I have a GATE identified student?**

**A)** Parents of GATE identified students may choose to have their child remain in their home attendance area school or may request a transfer to the district's GATE focus schools:

- a. Rucker Elementary – Grades 3-5
- b. Brownell Middle School – Grades 6-8

**Q) What's the difference between GATE and Accelerated/Advanced?**

**A)** GATE is a program eligibility based on students' potential on non-verbal aptitude test. Students may be identified as gifted and/or talented in one or more areas. Students that are identified as GATE will be provided an appropriate core education program with consideration of their gifted status. This may include enrichment classes after school and inclusion in GATE activities or programs within the school or district.

Accelerated or Advanced classes are offered to all students (GATE or non-GATE) whose academic readiness qualifies them for this level of instruction.

Determination for readiness is based on prior performance and academic assessments.

**Q) Is the Dual Immersion program a GATE program?**

- A) No. The Dual Immersion program offers instruction in English and Spanish with the objective of having the students proficient in two languages by the time they enter middle school. Dual Immersion is an educational program option in GUSD. Traditional education programs offer instruction in English only. The D.I. program may benefit GATE, as well as non-GATE, students.

**Q) Do teachers have to be GATE certified to teach GATE identified students?**

- A) No. All teachers are trained to differentiate instruction based on students' needs regardless of their GATE status or other identifiers. Most GATE students in GUSD are in classrooms with non-GATE trained teachers and their needs are being met appropriately. Teachers that have had GATE certification training may be more aware of the characteristics of a GATE student's learning needs and strategies to support their learning style.

**Q) When are students screened/evaluated for GATE?**

- A) All 2<sup>nd</sup> graders screened for GATE in the spring along with referred 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

Third graders new to the district, as well as highly mobile migrant 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are screened for GATE in the fall. Fourth and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students that are new to the district and that have been referred by their teachers, are also screened for GATE in the fall.

**Q) Do I have to pay to have my student in GATE?**

- A) No. GATE is part of the public education program and is federally funded.

**Q) Can my child be gifted in one area and not others?**

- A) Yes. A child may be gifted and/or talented, in one or more of the following areas under GATE identification criteria:

- Intellectual Ability

- Creative Thinking
- Specific Academic Ability
- Leadership Ability
- High Achievement
- Visual/Performing Arts
- Any Other Category (which meets the standards set forth in CCR Title 5 Section 3822)

**Q) What are the characteristics of a GATE student?**

A) GATE students may exhibit some or all of the following characteristics;

- Asks lots of questions. Has lots of information on many things May show more interest in “big ideas” than in basic skills knowledge.
- Remembers things that have only been heard or seen once. Seems to understand easily.
- Becomes unusually upset at injustices. Interested in adult concerns
- Has high expectations of self and others.
- Seems restless if given unchallenging tasks.
- Likes solving puzzles and problems.
- Reads books that are normally read by older children.
- Enjoys meeting or talking with older children or adults. Tries to do things in different, unusual, imaginative ways.
- Has an unusual or quirky sense of humor.
- Likes variety and novelty, unusual questions; has a vivid imagination.
- Responds emotionally to stories or events.
- Invents new ways of doing things.

**Q) What can I do as a parent to make sure my GATE child reaches his/her potential?**

A) Parents of gifted students can encourage their child’s natural interests and support them to pursue their potential as would a parent of any child.

They could support their child’s natural potential in specific interest areas through some of the following:

- Visit the library – read together
- Play board games – chess or other strategy games
- Visit a museum – Asian Art Museum, Tech Museum, Rosicrucian Museum, DeYoung Museum



- Music lessons
- Attend Symphony, ballet, opera or theatre
- Travel – local outings, State or National Parks, historic destinations, travel abroad (foreign exchange programs)
- Hobbies
- Clubs or Affiliations – Boy/Girl Scouts, FFA, ham radio, Associated Student Body (ASB), Debate Club, etc.
- Summer Camps – for Gifted or by area of interest (math, science, music, etc.)

**Q) Would my GATE identified child do better in a private school?**

- A) GATE students' needs can be met within the public school system. Ask your child's teacher or principal to clarify how GATE students' needs are met within the regular classroom as well as any enrichment classes or activities that place for GATE students within the school or district.

**Q) What are the benefits of the GATE focus schools in the district?**

- A)
- a. GATE certified teachers
  - b. Ability to offer cluster classes for GATE students due to larger enrollment of GATE-identified students
  - c. GATE awareness and expectations by staff and parents for variety of high-quality GATE programs and services.
  - d. Improved opportunities for parents of GATE students to network around GATE community events, activities and resources available.

**Q) What are some of the services and/or programs offered to GATE students in GUSD?**

- A)
- a. Differentiated instruction for students in the regular classroom such as extension activities for students who have mastered the standard. They may also have access to supplemental materials to challenge them to go deeper into a concept and apply their knowledge through work on special projects or assignments.

- b. Accelerated classes for students who have demonstrated mastery in basic classes where there is an option available such as in middle school math.
- c. Enrichment opportunities such as after school classes in science, math, performing arts, visual arts, chess class, poetry writing, etc.
- d. Enrichment field trips such as the Tech Museum of Innovation, Rosicrucian Museum, Monterey Bay Aquarium, University Tours, Asian Art Museum
- e. Enrichment activities such as Science Nights, Author visits/Literacy Evening, Math Nights, etc.

**Q) What do the non-GATE (or traditional) schools offer for my GATE child?**

- A) GATE students at any school in the district may receive some or all of the above-listed programs and services. Each school receives an annual GATE budget with a per pupil allocation depending on how many GATE – identified students are enrolled at that school.