

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE) PROGRAM**Referrals**

Initial referral procedure includes the following:

1. Notification of opportunity for GATE evaluation and deadline date for submission of requests shall be provided to all parents of elementary and middle school students.
2. All students in grades 2-7 shall be eligible for evaluation; however, students are not eligible for retesting for a minimum of one calendar year from the most recent cognitive aptitude test.
3. Parents or classroom teachers may refer students for GATE evaluation. The procedures for submitting referrals shall be published prior to each evaluation period.
4. Parents of referred students shall complete the GATE Parent Questionnaire, including a signed consent for assessment. Teachers shall complete the GATE Teacher Questionnaire for each referred student.
5. Information required for evaluation (including cognitive aptitude test scores) of referred students shall be recorded in a district GATE evaluation database.

Identification

1. Students referred for testing shall take either the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) or the Naglieri Non-Verbal Ability Test (NNAT), based on their ELL status. Students who have been previously evaluated for possible Special Education services, and who possess appropriate intellectual ability test scores, may use these scores in lieu of the OLSAT/NNAT.
2. The PUSD does not accept psychological intelligence test results from non-school personnel. If a public or private school has previously identified a student for GATE services on the basis of outside testing, the student should be referred for PUSD assessment.
3. GATE Identification shall be determined utilizing the following information:
 - a. Parent Questionnaire responses
 - b. Teacher Questionnaire responses
 - c. OLSAT/NNAT School Ability Index Score
 - d. Any additional factors which may interfere with success in school

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4. The data from the above information shall be assigned numerical scores. Scores shall then be entered into the district GATE evaluation database, which will yield a total GATE score for each student. A minimum total GATE score indicates that GATE placement is appropriate.
5. All parents of students evaluated for GATE services will be notified of evaluation results via U.S. mail.
6. Parents of GATE identified students shall sign a permission form for their student to participate in GATE services. The form shall be returned to the school of attendance and kept in the student's GATE envelope in the cumulative folder.
7. Identified students may immediately begin receiving GATE services in the form of Curriculum Differentiation, and the student shall be placed into a GATE cluster or homogeneous classroom at the beginning of the next academic year.
8. Parents of students who are evaluated but not identified for GATE services may submit an appeal to the GATE Eligibility Steering Committee using the GATE Eligibility Steering Committee Referral form (GATE-9) for a review of the student's file.

Placement and Services for GATE-Identified Students

1. All GATE-identified students shall receive a curriculum that is differentiated to appropriately meet the needs of cognitively gifted individuals. This curriculum shall be provided within the regular classroom setting. Students may also be provided with enrichment activities.
2. In grades 3-5, GATE-identified students shall be placed in heterogeneous cluster classrooms.
3. In grades 6-8, GATE-identified students may request placement in either heterogeneous GATE cluster classrooms or partial-day homogeneous GATE classrooms.
4. All GATE-identified students shall be provided with differentiated learning experiences that are appropriate for both their academic and social/emotional needs.

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Transfer Students

When a student who was GATE-identified in another district is received in the PUSD:

1. The student shall be placed as a provisional GATE student into a classroom containing other GATE-identified students. The student's electronic record shall be marked to indicate provisional status.
2. Records shall be obtained from the previous school and verified for previous GATE identification.
3. The parent(s) of the student shall be asked to complete a Parent Questionnaire (GATE-2).
4. The classroom teacher shall, within six weeks of student's enrollment, complete a Teacher Questionnaire (GATE-1) and return it to the site GATE Coordinator.
5. When aptitude test records, Parent Questionnaire, and Teacher Questionnaire have been collected, the site GATE Coordinator shall complete the GATE Steering Committee Referral Form (GATE-9), and send all four documents to Learning Support Services.
6. The GATE Steering Committee shall review records for transfer students and make determinations for GATE placement on an ongoing basis. Schools and parents shall be notified of placement decisions made.
7. Transfer students who are not identified by the GATE Steering Committee may be referred for retesting, as appropriate.

Other

1. The earliest official class cluster placement of a student for GATE services is the fall semester of the third grade. Students in grades K-2 who are thought to have gifted potential may be provided with appropriately differentiated instruction by the classroom teacher, as appropriate, and referred for evaluation during the second grade year.
2. When a GATE-identified student leaves PUSD or changes schools within the district, the site GATE file shall be transferred with the cumulative file to the new school.