

# GATE - AFTER THE TEST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is the difference between a Verbal Score and a Non-Verbal Score?

### Verbal Score

Reports indicate how student performed on questions that require the use of language. A student must be able to read and understand English in order to answer such a question. Questions involve reading and responding to questions that need to be read by the student.

### Non-Verbal Score

How student performed on questions that DID NOT require understanding of language in order to answer them. Questions involve pictorial representations.

## How is the test scored? How do incorrect and unattempted questions factor into the score?

The total score is determined by the total number of correct answers a student provides on the test. Incorrect and unattempted items **are not** counted toward the total score. The total score is then converted by the test publisher into a Total Ability Index score, an age-based index which has been developed from a previously age-normed sample of students who took the test.

## What is the Total Ability Index?

The **Total Ability Index** indicates the individual student's score as reported by a normed scale (up to 150). The index allows for comparing student scores independent of what ability test was given.

## What is the Percentile Rank?

This number indicates how the student performed compared to others within the same **age** group as the student. A student who scores at the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile has scored higher than 97 percent of other students of the same age in a previously normed sample.

## Is there a relationship between the Total Ability Index and the Percentile Rank?

The scores are related. Each Total Ability Index score corresponds to a Percentile Rank. For example, a Total Ability Index score of 100 equals the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile rank. A Total Ability Index score of 130 is the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile rank.

## How should the scores be interpreted?

Students who score in the highest percentiles typically have differing needs from many of their peers. Generally, the cognitive differences of students increase as the score increases. Teachers do accommodate these differences, but GATE identification indicates to teachers and staff that a student is likely to require these accommodations for maximum academic success. Identification for GATE services will provide them with both differentiated instruction and opportunities to learn with their cognitive peers.

## What score is needed to be considered GATE in the PUSD?

Generally, a student who scores above the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile is identified for GATE. However, final determination is made by considering the ability test score and the Teacher and Parent Questionnaires information. Additionally, other factors which may impact a student's test score may be considered. The district uses a matrix which includes all these factors to make the final determination.

The determination for GATE identification is a district decision, and a student who might be GATE identified in one district may not be GATE identified in the PUSD. In this way, each district determines how many and which students in that district are most likely to have the most differing needs from the rest of the district population. These students can then be served accordingly.

### **Why are there two different tests that were given?**

Students who have been determined to have proficiency with the English language are assigned to the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT). Students who are still developing toward proficiency are administered the Naglieri Non-Verbal Ability Test (NNAT), which does not report a Verbal score. Determination about what test a student will be administered is made by district personnel, based on test scores and other data.

### **What will happen now?**

If your student was identified for GATE, please complete the permission slip which allows the student to be placed into a GATE cluster class next year (grades 3-8) **and turn it into the current school site.**

In grades 6-8 there is an option for a homogeneous class placement in Language Arts and Social Studies. A lottery is performed when there is more demand than space available in the homogeneous placements in grades 6-8. Please contact your student's middle school regarding this.

If your student was **not** GATE identified, classroom teachers will still differentiate instruction, as needed. However, GATE cluster placement is not guaranteed. If you do not believe that the test results were indicative of your student's actual ability, you may request re-testing (see below).

### **When can my student re-test?**

1. Must wait 12 months
2. May test up to **3 times** between grade 2 and grade 7.