



OFFICE OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Gifted and Talented Education Office
1299 E. 32nd Street ~ Signal Hill, CA 90755
562/426-9538 ~ FAX 562/426-6318

Commonly Asked Questions

What is the first step in the GATE evaluation process?

A parent, teacher or school administrator may nominate a child for an evaluation through the school counselor. Before doing so, talk to the teacher to gain an understanding of the child's achievement. Proficiency levels on the California Standards Test are used to screen students in grades 3 and 5 throughout the district. Benchmark Reading Tests and district math tests may also be used for screening when the student is significantly above grade level.

Who administers the test for GATE identification?

An examiner from the GATE office administers the test of mental ability as part of the criteria used for final identification. Achievement proficiency levels or percentile scores on state and district testing will serve as a screening tool for grades 2, 3 and 5. Exceptional performance on the California Standards Test, the Benchmark Reading Test, state Writing samples, Open-Ended Math questions and the Trimester Math Tests may also serve as tools for screening students.

How many times may I have my child tested?

A test of mental ability, administered by the GATE office, is usually given only once. However, one re-test may be granted after 2nd grade when it is apparent that a child is performing in the exceptional range.

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

Parents receive a letter giving test scores and an explanation of how to interpret the scores. The examiner is required to maintain the confidentiality of published and standardized tests. All test booklets must be kept secured to protect the validity of the test.

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

Once a child is identified, the placement remains valid throughout middle school.

All LBUD high schools have honors classes and Advanced Placement courses open to all students. Eighth grade students applying to high school GATE programs, such as Poly PACE, Millikan QUEST and Jordan IB will be accepted by a ranking of composite scores including middle school grades (GPA) and scores on standardized achievement tests. GATE identification is not required for acceptance into advanced high school classes and GATE programs.

If my child is identified for the GATE program, but does not participate in the class, does he/she lose his/her identification?

Once identified, a student may enter the program through 8th grade without re-evaluation. Each high school has established criteria for their accelerated programs.

Is private intelligence testing accepted for identification?

Private assessments are not accepted as part of the evaluation process. The process of identification ensures that pupils in the district have equal access to screening and referral as required by California's Coordinated Compliance Review (CCR 3820 f).

If my child was identified in another school district, may he/she be identified in this district?

GATE is not a mandated program in California. Therefore, each district develops its own criteria for identification. Eligible students must meet the GATE identification criteria established for the GATE program in Long Beach Unified School District.

How is the EXCEL program different from GATE classes?

Usually, the participants in EXCEL are high achievers. EXCEL programs are developed to meet the needs of a specific school site. Placement occurs only in that school.

To be referred and identified for the GATE program, students may be enrolled in any school in the district. An identified student may apply to any GATE class listed on the GATE application.

The GATE office funds and administers both the GATE and EXCEL programs. In both programs, instruction begins with the core curriculum emphasizing depth and complexity. Instruction is differentiated to meet the needs of high ability students.