

The South Bay Union School District Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program provides a learning environment for intellectually gifted students in grades 3-6. This program is designed specifically to meet their special needs and challenge their unique abilities. Students are identified as eligible for GATE programs through district wide screening of 2nd grade students and/or by assessments generated from teacher or parent referral. GATE Program options include: 1) GATE self-contained classes at Emory School; 2) GATE cluster classes at various sites; 3) general education classes. In all settings, students are provided research-based standardized instruction to master state standards with enrichment activities. Development of higher level thinking skills is emphasized for GATE students. Teachers receive staff development in gifted education, differentiated instruction, and strategies to guide and support students in their pursuit of educational excellence. The learning environment provides experiences which foster development of unique abilities with an emphasis on inquiry, discovery, investigation, creativity, and flexibility.

In order to address the needs of students, the District's GATE program includes the following:

- Differentiated opportunities commensurate with the student's particular abilities and talents
- Acquisition of advanced subject matter
- Mastery of skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, decision making, creative thinking and inductive and deductive reasoning.
- Fostering realistic healthy self-concepts, sensitivity and responsibility to others, and contributions to society.
- Fostering self-directed learning, inquiry, discussion, debate, metacognition, and other modes of learning.



For further information regarding the GATE Program or to obtain a copy of the District GATE plan you may call either 628-1660 or your neighborhood school. For information regarding the Emory School self-contained GATE program, contact 628-5300.

Identification Criteria

South Bay Union School District uses identification criteria and procedures that meet State guidelines. For assuring equal access and opportunity to participate in the Gifted and Talented Education Program, the following guidelines are used:

Intellectual Ability: Intellectual ability is generally assessed using the Ravens Progressive Matrices Test. This is a nonverbal test of cognitive reasoning processes that is used in other countries as well as the United States. Additional cognitive ability tests may be used, as appropriate. Results are used as part of a Multiple Criteria for GATE identification.

Creativity/Leadership: Creativity and leadership are assessed via a checklist based on the Renzulli Scale for rating behavioural characteristics of superior students. This is completed as a result of teacher observations. As part of the Multiple Criteria, the student receives points based on his/her scores.

Specific Academic Ability: Reading and math are the specific academic areas assessed. These consist of the total reading and total math scores on the CST (California Standards Test). Students who score Advanced in both areas are often referred for further assessment by their teacher.

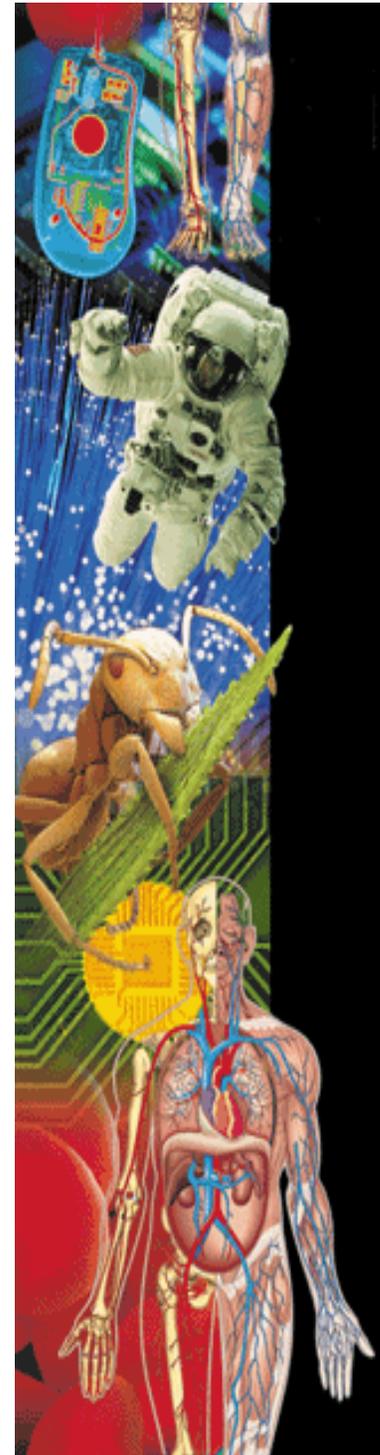
Additionally, students who score Advanced in one area and Proficient in another may also be referred, as may students who score high Basic if transitioning into the English language.

Total points on the Multiple Criteria Form are reviewed by a site GATE committee and recommendations are made for placement in a GATE program for qualified students.

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Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program Parent Brochure

South Bay Union School District
601 Elm Ave.
Imperial Beach, California
91932

Philosophy of the Gifted and Talented Education Program

The philosophy of South Bay Union School District is that every child is uniquely precious and entitled to an education which is appropriate to that child's ability to grasp abstract concepts, symbols, and ideas. When a child possesses gifts and talents so pronounced that they could greatly enhance his/her life and the society in which he/she lives, then special care must be taken in planning for the provision of an educational setting that affirms and supports those talents. To fail to do so is to deprive these young people and society of the talent that can be shared for the mutual benefit of all. It is the purpose of the GATE program to uphold this philosophy.



Why recommend your child(ren) for GATE?

Because...

- Their future is at stake
- Their learning needs differ
- Their will to learn must be encouraged and nurtured

They need opportunities to...

- Learn at their own pace
- Learn in depth
- Explore accelerated or advanced content
- Interact with others of similar abilities and interests
- Learn through discovery and inquiry
- Find and solve problems
- Generate new information
- Analyze, evaluate, and transfer information



Characteristics of the Gifted and Talented Student

Below are some of the characteristics frequently found in gifted and talented children. These children also may have many other character traits. Of course, all gifted children may not possess all of these characteristics. Some of the most common of these traits are as follows:

- Have diverse, spontaneous and frequently self-directed interest
- Think critically and analytically
- Show unusual maturity in the ability to express themselves through communication skills, which includes an extensive vocabulary
- Asks questions, want to know causes and reasons
- Are keenly observant
- Show a high degree of originality in ideas and uses of materials
- Display flexibility in thought and action
- Learn to read earlier and continue to read at a more advanced level
- Are self-evaluative
- Possess a highly developed sense of curiosity and a limitless supply of questions
- Ask penetrating, searching questions and solve problems uniquely
- Are creative, imaginative and do things in different and unusual ways
- Sustain interest in one or more topics for long periods of time
- Learning quickly and easily and retain much information
- Exhibit leadership ability
- May show unusual ability in one or more area and not in others or may not work to full potential

Resources

California Association for the Gifted
113130 Sun Center Drive, Suite 100
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
TEL: (916) 441-3999
www.CAGifted.org

National Assoc. for Gifted Children
1707 L. Street, NW, Suite 550
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 785-4268
www.nagc.org

Hoagies' Gifted Education Page
256 Eagleview Blvd., PMB 123
Exton, PA 19341
www.hoagiesgifted.org



Giftedness is only a prediction of potential;
it is not a guarantee of success.

It is important to help gifted children make the most of their potential. We must challenge and motivate them. These students do not "make it on their own."

"...we must do all in our power to help the gifted and talented child seize opportunities and reach high goals."

Bill Honig, former State Supt. of Instruction