

Gifted and Talented Students and Students Achieving Above Grade Level

LALPA will meet the needs of gifted and talented students and students achieving above grade level (collectively, “GATE”) by seeking to identify these students and ensuring that they receive daily, differentiated classroom instruction relevant to their needs, including enrichment, which might consist of independent study and original research opportunities, and flexible pacing strategies such as curriculum compacting . In addition, the Program for Gifted and Talented Students will include monthly activities (for example, participation in the elementary school honor society chapter), options to participate in interest clubs and/or science and art fairs, student portfolios, and annual showcases. While these activities are for all students, GATE students may have advanced requirements. All students have access to the activities, but assignments may be differentiated. At the start of the school year, the LALPA Director of Student Support Services will hold a GATE parent advisory meeting to discuss the GATE Program and requirements. Every quarter, LALPA will hold a GATE parent advisory meeting to discuss issues regarding the GATE Program, social and emotional issues related to GATE and high-achieving students and other topics of interest to parents of GATE and high-achieving students. The GATE Program is implemented by the classroom teachers and overseen by the Director of Student Support Services. Teachers meet with the Principal at the beginning of the year to review student subgroup data, and receive class lists identifying students’ GATE status.

Categories and Process of Identification

GATE students exhibit excellence or the capacity for excellence far beyond that of their chronological peers. Students whose abilities fall into one or more of the categories below may be considered for participation in the GATE Program.

High Achievement Ability

- Grades 1 - 3: Students who demonstrate high achievement at advanced levels determined by state (standardized) tests, quarterly benchmark results, grades, and Teacher recommendation.
- Grade 4 -5: Students who consistently function for two consecutive years at advanced levels determined by state (standardized) tests in both English Language Arts and Mathematics, quarterly benchmark results, grades and teacher recommendation.

Leadership Ability

Students who show confidence and knowledge, influence others effectively, have problem-solving and decision-making skills, express ideas in oral or written form clearly, show a sense of purpose and direction (as determined by administrator and teacher observations), and who participate in documented community service projects are eligible to participate in the GATE Program.

Process of Identification

Identification of GATE students is accomplished through an assessment process consisting of search and referral and screening.

Search and referral

LALPA's Director of Student Support Services develops an initial list of potential candidates through the process of reviewing state standardized testing data, internal benchmark assessments, personal observation, and feedback from teachers, parents and administrators. Parents are provided with a questionnaire to obtain more information about the students. In addition, teachers can refer students based on classroom observation of the pace at which students learn, depth of understanding of topics studied, and depth of knowledge reflected in students' special interest areas.

Screening

The Director of Student Support Services screens students by collecting objective data from existing sources such as the cumulative record, state standardized testing data, quarterly benchmark results, grades, teacher referral, teacher input, and a parent questionnaire. Parents can also request screening for their students. Designation of GATE students is also based upon California Association for the Gifted and the National Association for Gifted Children.

Notification of Eligibility or Non-Eligibility

LALPA will notify the parents of the student's eligibility (or non-eligibility) and provide parents with a program overview. The Director of Student Services will place an orange folder in the cumulative files containing the Report on Eligibility or Non-eligibility. A Parent Consent for Participation in the GATE Program must be signed and placed in the orange folder of each student participating in the program.

Professional Development for Teachers of GATE Students

All teachers will be provided access to Byrdseed Gifted Education, a website dedicated to the unique academic, social, and emotional needs of gifted learners, and Byrdseed TV, a collection of videos designed to help teachers integrate learning opportunities for gifted learners into the regular classroom setting. In addition, Ian Byrd, the founder of Byrdseed Gifted Education, will be scheduled for a professional development session sometime during the 2016-17 school year.

Progress Monitoring

The academic progress of GATE students will be monitored by the Director of Student Services. A progress report reflecting grades, awards, recognition for community service, etc. will be placed in the student's orange folder.