

GIFTED/TALENTED PROGRAMS PARENT NEWSLETTER



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LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND
SCHOOL SUPPORT

GATE Testing for All Second Grade Students

In order to better serve our potentially gifted students through more thorough screening, LAUSD is preparing to roll out an identification program aimed at qualifying second grade students as gifted in the High Achievement category. This will be done during the months of March and April through the administration of the Otis Lennon School Ability Test, Eighth Edition (OLSAT-8). Below are some frequently asked questions regarding this program:

Q: Who will be tested?

A: All second grade students except for students who take the CAPA and students previously identified as gifted in the Intellectual category will be tested. Second grade students with disabilities who are participating in the District general education curriculum are required to participate. Independent charter school students are not eligible. Private and home-schooled students are not eligible. Additionally, parents may request that their child not take the OLSAT.

Q: Who will administer the test?

A: In most cases, second grade classroom teachers will administer the test. The test takes approximately 60 minutes to administer.

Q: How does a student become eligible for High Achievement with the OLSAT?

A: Students who score in the 95th percentile will be identified "gifted" based on their qualifying score and teacher checklist. Students who score between the 90th and 94th percentiles will be eligible if they also have qualifying CST scores for Spring 2011 (450 math and 445 ELA). Identification will be complete only after the school site prepares and submits necessary paperwork, and that paperwork has been processed by the Gifted/Talented Program office.

Q: If a student does not meet the gifted criteria on the OLSAT, is the student ineligible for gifted referral and identification in the Intellectual category?

A: No. The OLSAT is an achievement test, not an intellectual assessment. The student may still be referred in the Intellectual category if there is supporting evidence.

For more information, parents can attend any one of the GATE office's informational meetings during the month of February. Meetings will be held from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. on: February 3rd (Nestle ES), February 7th (Sendak ES), February 10th (Melrose ES), February 17th (Corona ES), and February 24th (Taper ES).

Frequently Asked Questions

- **I recently requested that my child be referred for gifted identification. What is the timeline for processing this request?**

While there is no set timeline, here is what you should expect after requesting a referral. Your request will first go to the local school screening committee. The screening committee will review your child's records to determine if he/she is qualified for referral at this time, and in what category. This process could take several weeks. The screening team will notify you if your child *is not* qualified for referral at this time. If you child

is determined to be qualified for referral, the application process will begin and testing (for the Intellectual category) or auditions/demonstrations (Visual and Performing Arts) will be arranged. Once final paperwork has been processed by the District GATE office, you will receive a letter stating whether your child is eligible or ineligible for gifted identification. Due to major budget cuts and staff reductions, this process can take several months.

- **What is the GATE budget and how is it spent?** Expenditures of state GATE funds

supplement (rather than supplant) District funds spent on gifted learners. In 2010-2011, schools received \$15 per identified GATE student. Due to budget cuts, this number has been steadily decreasing for the past several years (from \$100 per student ten years ago). The funds are spent on services or materials that will directly impact GATE students (i.e. professional development, above grade-level resources, field trips, etc.).



Save the Date!
GATE/SAS Parent Conference
April 2, 2011
Virgil Middle School
9 a.m.—12 p.m.



Online Resources:

- www.centralcities.org
- www.cagifted.org
- www.nagc.org
- www.sengifted.org
- www.hoagiesgifted.org
- www.gifted-children.com

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