



El Tejon Unified School District

Gifted **A**nd **T**alented **E**ducation (GATE)

Parent Information

Thank you for your interest in the El Tejon Unified School District's GATE program. Please take a moment to thoroughly read the information provided.

GATE program services are provided at individual school sites. Coordination of services falls under the direction of the EDUSD Curriculum Department. The Coordinator of Curriculum works with site leadership to ensure that appropriate services are provided.

For further information, please contact your school site principal or the ETUSD Curriculum Department at 661-248-6247 ext. 2.

Identification

The responsibility for identifying Gifted and Talented students is the collaborative effort of the Curriculum Department and the school site staff.

- Students are referred for screening upon teacher or parent request beginning at the end of second grade.
- Students entering the district after second grade may be referred for screening at the grade level that they enter the district.
- Students entering the district who have been previously identified as GATE are automatically enrolled in the ETUSD GATE program.
- The practice of waiting until the end of second grade to officially identify GATE students is designed to reduce misidentification as a result of extraneous factors, such as maturity, cultural factors, and enrichment experiences.
- Students whose performance does not meet the criteria may be referred again, but are evaluated no more than once every other year.

Acceptance into the GATE Program is based on evaluation of multiple assessment measures using the following criteria and/or a decision by the GATE Screening Committee that the GATE Program is the most appropriate placement for the student:

1. Student performance on California Standards Test (CST),
2. Student performance on ability tests (Otis Lennon School Ability Test),
3. Student's current grades,
4. Teacher evaluation of student's abilities, performance, and characteristics,
5. Other factors which may affect performance.

If after reviewing the attached information you wish your child to be GATE evaluated for participation in the program, the attached GATE Program Referral Form must be completed and returned to your child's school. The school will then complete the Referral Form and forward it to the District's GATE office for processing.

The district will inform appropriate school personnel and parents of the student's test results and status of GATE qualification. All parents will be notified by mail. A copy of the notification letter will be included in the child's cumulative folder.

Is My Child Gifted?

In order to assist you in the evaluation of whether or not your child would be considered as gifted, the following chart has been devised to help discriminate the differences between a “bright” and a “gifted” child. Although all students can exhibit a mixture of the characteristics listed below, the gifted and talented child typically exhibits unusually high levels described in the gifted category.

The Bright Child

The Gifted Child

Knows the answer	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is highly curious
Is attentive	Is mentally and physically involved
Has good ideas	Has wild, silly ideas
Works hard	Plays around, yet tests well
Answers the questions	Discusses in detail; elaborates
Is in top group	Works beyond the top group
Listens with interest	Shows strong feelings and opinions
Learns with ease	Already knows
Needs 6-8 repetitions for mastery	Needs 1-2 repetitions for mastery
Understands ideas	Constructs abstractions
Enjoys peers	Prefers adults
Grasps the meaning	Draws inferences
Completes assignments	Initiates (not necessarily completes) project
Is receptive	Is intense
Copies accurately	Creates a new design
Enjoys school	Enjoys learning
Absorbs information	Manipulates information
Is a technician	Invents
Has a good memory	Is a good guesser
Enjoys straightforward, sequential presentation	Thrives on complexity
Is alert	Is keenly observant
Is pleased with own learning	Is highly self-critical

Descriptors by Janice Szabos

Note: Not all descriptors will be true for any one student.

Frequently Asked Questions

What type of test is the GATE test?

The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) will be used as part of the identification process for the Gifted and Talented Education Program. Parental permission is required before we may use this instrument with your child.

The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) assesses verbal and nonverbal reasoning and thinking skills. It tests one's ability to analyze, reason, and think abstractly. It is very different from the STAR test that students in the state take in the spring. OLSAT is based on the notion that to learn new things, students must be able to perceive accurately, to recognize and recall what has been perceived, to think logically, to understand relationships, to abstract from a set of particulars, and to apply generalizations to new and different contexts. The OLSAT is an aptitude test, unlike the STAR achievement test.

The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) is administered at your child's school site. The test, including directions, is approximately one hour long.

After the identification process is completed, all parents will be notified in writing of the test results and program eligibility.

What types of questions are asked on the GATE test?

Students perform such tasks as detecting likenesses and differences, following directions, classifying, and establishing sequence, completing analogies, and solving matrixes.

What factors are used to identify a student?

In identifying students, the district uses multiple measures to determine their GATE status. The district looks at STAR test results, the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) scores, teacher observations, parent information, and other supportive information as appropriate. All of these factors are taken into consideration when identifying a GATE student.

How is the GATE program run?

Elementary students work in the regular classroom with differentiated instruction and activities appropriate to their GATE status. Special activities and field trips are scheduled during the school year so that GATE students have the opportunity to work with other GATE students in other classes and grades.

In middle school grades, students identified as GATE are placed in honors classes in English and mathematics. Placement in honors classes is not solely based upon GATE identification. Students are placed in honors classes based upon a combination of factors including previous course achievement, teacher recommendation, standardized test scores and student interest.

In high school, students have an opportunity to enroll in honors level courses and Advanced Placement. Students have opportunities to participate in Robotics, Academic Decathlon and other GATE related clubs and activities.

If a child/student does not qualify, can he/she take the test again?

A child may take the test again in two years, i.e., if a student takes the test in second grade, s/he is eligible to retake the test in fourth grade.

What if my child was identified GATE in another district?

Student new to the district and previously identified in a prior district are automatically enrolled in the El Tejon Unified School District GATE Program.

Who may refer my child?

Students, parents, or teachers may initiate a referral using the forms located in all school offices. All students in the district are to be considered eligible for referral. A complete referral includes available testing data and other relevant information.

All referral forms are returned by the parent(s) to the **school office**. The school office will complete necessary information and forward the completed Permission/Referral/Questionnaire form to the district GATE office. The Parent Questionnaire is reviewed as an integral part of the identification process.

Does my child need to be re-identified each year?

No, once s/he has been identified GATE in our district, s/he automatically qualifies for GATE each year in our district.

Test results are included in the cumulative folders of those children who are identified as gifted. Documentation of non-qualified students is maintained at the district office for a period of five years. Once identified, students do not need to participate in further testing to be eligible for the program. Students whose performance does not meet the criteria may be referred again, but are tested no more than once every other year.



El Tejon Unified School District Gifted And Talented Education Program

Parent Permission for Student Testing

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your son/daughter has been recommended for testing for participation in the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program. The test to be administered will be the Otis-Lennon School Ability test (OLSAT). Testing will take place at _____ School on _____. Testing will take approximately 60 minutes.

Student eligibility for the GATE program includes a variety of information and data including results of ability, academic achievement, and content standards tests; teacher recommendations; parent information; and samples of student work.

Parents will be notified in writing about student eligibility for the GATE program and options for program placement. If you have any questions, please contact the district GATE coordinator at 661-248-6247.

To give permission for your child to be tested, please do the following: (1) sign the permission for testing form provided below and (2) return the form to your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

Paula Harvey
Coordinator of Curriculum and Programs



El Tejon Unified School District Gifted And Talented Education Program

Permission for GATE Testing

Child's Name

School

- I give permission for my son/daughter to be tested for the GATE program.

- I do not want my son/daughter to be tested for the GATE program

Parent/Guardian Signature



El Tejon Unified School District Gifted **A**nd **T**alented **E**ducation (GATE)

Parent Questionnaire

School _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____ Date _____

(please print)

Child's Name _____

Sex M _____ F _____ Birth Date _____ Age _____

Mother's Name _____ Work Phone _____

Father's Name _____ Work Phone _____

Street _____ Home Phone _____

P.O. Box _____

City _____ Zip _____

Language spoken in the home _____

Student's Primary Language _____

Referral Requested by: Mother _____ Father _____ Other _____

Principal's Signature _____

Learning Characteristics of Gifted and Talented Students

Instructions: The following learning characteristics are found among children identified as gifted and talented.

Circle the letter which best identifies the degree to which this child demonstrates these characteristics:

a=consistently b= occasionally c=seldom d=never or omit

Description of Learning/Behavioral Characteristics	a	b	c	d	e
Understands complicated concepts and relationships					
Possesses an unusual amount of information for his/her age					
Uses advanced vocabulary in appropriate ways					
Is able to articulate ideas fluently.					
Remembers facts accurately without special effort.					
Combines ideas/materials in unique ways.					
Probes beyond "how" and "what" to the "why" in questions					
Creates products of unusual character or quality					
Exhibits keen powers of observation					
Ability to see relationships, including cause and effect					
Develops structures and organizations and original systems					
Retains learned information					
Expresses a dislike for drill and routine					
Is able to self evaluate through critical thinking					
High ability of concentration and intense effort.					
Demonstrates sensitivity to injustices.					
Demonstrates a keen sense of humor					
Demonstrates knowledge of abstract thought, can conceptualize, synthesize and problem-solve					



El Tejon Unified School District Gifted and Talented Education Program

Parent Notification of Eligibility and Permission for Participation

Dear Parent/Guardian:

_____ has been identified for participation in the district's Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program. GATE program services may include one or more of the following:

- Differentiated curriculum in the regular classroom provided by the classroom teacher.
- Cluster grouping with other GATE pupils for differentiated curriculum in the classroom.
- Part-time grouping of GATE pupils for advanced or enriched curriculum during the school day.
- Enrichment activities involving supplemental educational activities.
- Acceleration in grades or classes that are more advanced.
- Independent study provided through special tutors, mentors, or special courses.
- Post secondary education conducted by a college.
- Other _____

To give permission for your son/daughter to participate in the GATE program, please sign and return the form provided below to your school. If you have any questions, please contact

_____ at _____
(phone number)

Sincerely,

Paula Harvey
District GATE Coordinator



El Tejon Unified School District Gifted and Talented Education Program

Permission for GATE Participation

Child's Name _____

School _____

- I give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the GATE program.
- I do not want my son/daughter to participate in the GATE program.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Please have your child's teacher complete the following information prior to submitting the referral package to the district GATE coordinator:

Student Name _____

Academic Achievement	California Standards Test (CST) English/Language Arts Scaled Score _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Proficient <input type="checkbox"/> Basic	California Standards Test (CST) Math Scaled Score _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Proficient <input type="checkbox"/> Basic
	California Achievement Test (CAT6) Reading _____% Language _____% Math _____%	Benchmark Assessments or Other Tests Reading _____ Writing _____ Language _____ Math _____
Gifted Behavioral Characteristics	Rate student on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the highest.	Reading _____ Mathematics _____ Science _____ Motivation _____ Creativity _____ Leadership _____
Visual and Performing Arts	Rate student on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the highest. Artistic _____ Musical _____ Dramatic _____	Comments
Other Considerations/ Impact Factors	Please check: <input type="checkbox"/> Socio Economic <input type="checkbox"/> English Language Learner <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education <input type="checkbox"/> Health	Comments
Identification Categories	Check the categories that identify student's strengths: <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual <input type="checkbox"/> High Achievement <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Academic _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Creative <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts Talent <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts Talent <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

(To be completed by the GATE Assessment team)

Intellectual Ability	Aptitude Tests Aptitude Test _____ Date Administered _____ Composite _____ Verbal/Linguistic _____ Nonverbal _____ Quantitative _____	Aptitude Tests Aptitude Test _____ Date Administered _____ Composite _____ Verbal/Linguistic _____ Nonverbal _____ Quantitative _____
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Evaluation Team Decision: _____ Eligible _____ Ineligible