

## Santa Ana Unified GATE Department



SAUSD Gifted and Talented



@GiftedSausd



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# Gifted and Talented Program

## Santa Ana Unified School District



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## Gifted Children's Bill of Rights

National Association for the Gifted

You have a right to

- *know about your giftedness*
- *learn something new everyday*
- *be passionate about your talent area without apologies*
- *have an identity beyond your talent area*
- *feel good about your accomplishments*
- *make mistakes*
- *seek guidance in the development of your talent*
- *have multiple peer groups and a variety of friends*
- *choose which of your talent areas you wish to pursue*
- *not to be gifted at everything*

## Gifted and Talented Program

Santa Ana Unified School District

SAUSD's administrators, teachers and parents recognize that gifted and talented students possess unique intellectual, social and emotional characteristics that need to be nurtured to promote a positive school experience.

To meet this goal, the following priorities provide a foundation for the SAUSD GATE program:

- Knowledgeable persons who can plan and implement appropriate gifted education programs and best practices
- Appropriate services to meet the individual needs of gifted students
- Differentiated and individualized curricular experiences
- Identification procedures that are diverse, extensive and sensitive to students from a wide range of cultures, races and ethnic groups
- Parent, professional and student participation in the initiation, implementation and evaluation of the gifted program

## Program Design

The SAUSD GATE Program provides a comprehensive continuum of services and program options responsive to the needs, interests and abilities of its students. The program is managed by a full-time district specialist, as well as a GATE site coordinator at each school site. The GATE program provides services for students in grades 3-12 who have been identified in the intellectual, high achievement or specific academic or visual and performing arts categories.

Students in grades K-2 are not formally identified, but are challenged to their highest potential in pre-GATE programs as designated by school leadership.

Depending on the number of identified GATE students at a grade level, elementary schools serve gifted students during the school day via the cluster model, with approximately 8-10 identified gifted students placed in a general education class. Schools with high numbers of identified students offer special day classes with the majority of the students in the class being formally identified.

In the secondary classrooms, gifted students are scheduled into Honors and Advanced Placement classes.

Teachers use the grade level standards and core curriculum for all students and use differentiated strategies to challenge GATE students to their highest potential.

## Building Responsibility in Program Design

### Classroom Responsibility: *Providing GATE Services*

- Respond to cognitive and affective student needs
- Differentiate instruction
- Monitor student achievement
- Provide interest based classroom experiences

### School Responsibility: *Leadership in Implementation*

- Ensure fidelity of services
- Provide support for cognitive and affective development
- Encourage in-depth training opportunities
- Support interest based extracurricular activities

### District Responsibility: *Developing Policies and Programs*

- Develop defensible identification
- Outline services and curriculum support
- Facilitate professional development
- Evaluate program effectiveness
- Encourage stakeholder support

## Testing and Identification

The Santa Ana Unified School District's identification procedures are equitable, comprehensive and ongoing. Staff and parent information sessions addressing the characteristics of gifted students prepare teachers and parents to recognize unique talents and gifts.

In grades K-1, where pre-GATE programs are available, teachers are encouraged to identify students for pre-GATE program services. Services are designed to address the needs of primary students who have demonstrated advanced and potentially gifted capabilities. Pre-GATE programs recognizes potentially gifted and advanced learners in their early years, allowing teachers to begin challenging students appropriately while building a healthy continuum of rigor and growth. These students are not formally tested, but the schools take into consideration their classroom placement with other high ability students.

### Universal GATE Testing

Formal assessment begins with the screening of all second-grade students in the fall every school year. Parent permission is required to test students using the Naglieri Non-verbal Ability Test, an instrument that is sensitive to language and cultural differences.

Students in grades 3-11 are administered the NNAT by teacher recommendation, parent request and self referral. To obtain the most accurate assessment of the student being considered for identification, an Eligibility and Placement Committee reviews a variety of informational data: teacher recommendation, student writing proficiency, grades, achievement test scores, and NNAT scores. Nontraditional methods for effective identification of English learners are also considered, such as rapid language acquisition and standardized test scores in primary language.

Parents are notified of their child's acceptance into the GATE Program and must give a signed consent for their child to participate in the program. A beginning of the year orientation regarding student placement and participation is offered to parents by GATE coordinators at each school site. Once a child is identified, schools will place the student in one of the district's program design options with teachers who have been trained in gifted services and who will challenge them to their highest potential.

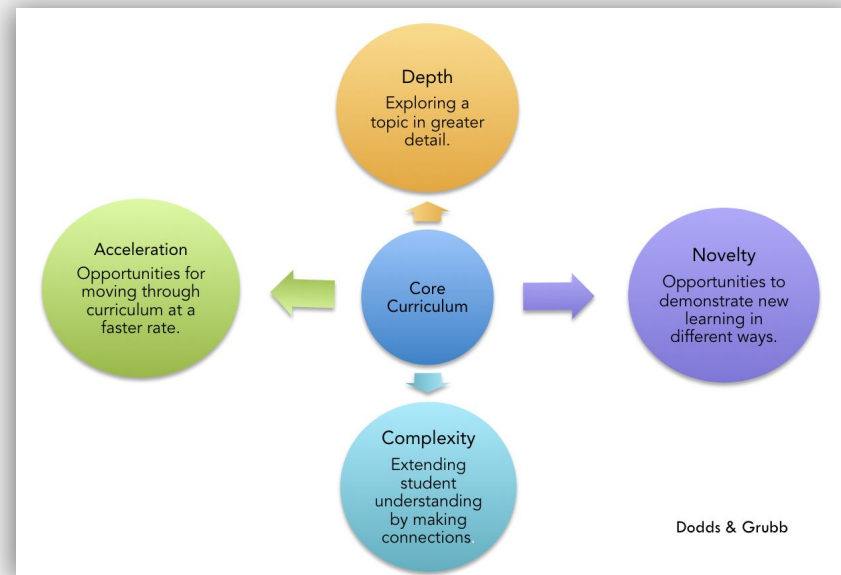


## Program Services

The SAUSD GATE program applies the state-recommended standards of Depth, Complexity, Novelty and Acceleration to make the core curriculum different for gifted learners. These standards are used to differentiate learning opportunities that stress the complexity of a subject matter, develop greater depth in thinking and reasoning skills and provide for creation of new ideas and new products. These standards also support both the cognitive and affective needs of gifted learners that are critical in the development of successful scholars and well rounded individuals.

SAUSD's K-12 scope and sequence outlines effective strategies to increase learning opportunities by enhancing, enriching and extending the core curriculum and guide gifted students to reach their full potential. This learning continuum supports school sites and teachers in the development in the curricular services provided to their students.

## GATE Standards



[California Association for the Gifted  
Differentiating the Common Core State  
Standards for Gifted Students](#)

[SAUSD GATE Scope and Sequence](#)

## Staff Development

Staff development is provided to teachers, administrators, psychologists, counselors and parents which support the intellectual, social and emotional development of gifted learners to increase responsibility, self-awareness, and other issues of affective development in gifted individuals.

The GATE Department believes it is necessary to provide staff development to teachers which prepares them to differentiate the curriculum to meet the needs of GATE learners. The GATE Department adheres to the definition of differentiation described by the California Association for the Gifted. Staff development is designed to provide the teacher with the knowledge and tools to differentiate the core curriculum or instruction so that students who have already mastered the material continue to progress and so that students who have a particular interest area can pursue it in greater depth or in a personalized way.

GATE teachers are encouraged to participate in various staff development opportunities which include district sponsored staff development provided by a cadre of trained SAUSD GATE teachers, consultants hired by the GATE Department, local and state conferences, and summer GATE academies.

SAUSD also offers staff a GATE certification Program which aligns to the Orange County Council for the Gifted certification guidelines. This certification is met through twelve learning modules developing participants in a comprehensive GATE program.

## SAUSD GATE Certification

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Module 1:</b> SAUSD GATE Program	<b>Module 5:</b> Diverse Gifted Learners	<b>Boosters:</b>  Think Like a Disciplinarian
<b>Module 2:</b> Characteristics of the Gifted	<b>Module 6:</b> Universal Themes & Generalizations	Independent Study  Levels of Thinking and Depth & Complexity
<b>Module 3:</b> Depth & Complexity 101	<b>Module 7:</b> Advanced Differentiation	Thinking Maps Integration  Novel Engineering
<b>Module 4:</b> Mindset & Scholarly Pursuits	<b>Module 8:</b> Intellectual Discourse	Passion Projects  Genius Hour  Invention Convention

## Family Connection

The Santa Ana Unified School District is a leader in advocating involvement in all aspects of education. The Board of Education, the Superintendent and staff strongly believe that positive gains result from educators and parents who take an active interest in their schools. Parental involvement in the schools is a key factor in the improvement of our children's education.

To encourage the family connection within the GATE department, fall and spring parent meetings on gifted topics are conducted in English and in Spanish throughout the school year. School GATE coordinators also facilitate parent meetings on GATE related topics at least twice per year at their own sites.

In addition, the Gifted and Talented Education Department meets regularly throughout the year with the Association for Gifted and Talented Education Advisory Committee.

Members have an important role in the decision-making process of the educational programs designed to meet the needs of the gifted learner.

We urge you to seriously consider becoming an active member of this organization whose purposes are:

*To promote parent education regarding giftedness*

*To act as a resource for sharing and disseminating information about GATE programs that benefit gifted children*

*To advocate for the continued existence and improvement of gifted programs*

*To serve as a support group for parents*

*To promote extracurricular educational activities for gifted children*

If you are interested in participating on the AGATE Committee, contact the SAUSD GATE Department or your child's school site coordinator. You can make a difference in the quality of your child's education!

## Questions

What is the Gifted and Talented Education program?

*In California, schools can choose to apply educational funds to provide appropriate learning opportunities for those students identified as gifted and talented. A basic gifted program will include testing to identify gifted students, group students within a class during a school day by ability, provide curriculum that is challenging to gifted learners, develops social and emotional skills, training for teachers and administrators in the education of gifted learners, provide counseling and support for students who are at-risk, and provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the learning, planning and evaluation of GATE programs. A written plan defining how the district and school sites will meet the needs of gifted children, articulated by the state GATE standards, is completed on a yearly basis.*

How is GATE instruction different from what the general education students is receiving?

*All students in the Santa Ana Unified School District receive comprehensive instruction in the basic skills, state instructional standards and core curriculum with an emphasis on meeting the district's rigorous and challenging academic standards.*

*GATE instruction emphasizes the use of multiple perspectives, multiple resources and research. Gifted students create unique products that apply higher level critical thinking skills and involve purposeful communication to engage students in the learning as they progress through grade levels.*

What enrichment activities are available beyond the classroom which my child can be involved in?

*Individual schools offer various extended activities in which GATE students can participate. These activities promote unique learning and interests of gifted students. After school Scholar Club Science Fairs Speech and Debate Math Club Pentathlon PAL Club Decathlon Student Council Science Club Visual & Performing Arts Check with your child's teacher, GATE Coordinator or school administrator to find out what is offered at your school for GATE students*



How do I find out if my child qualifies for the SAUSD GATE program?

*Some children are able to concentrate for long periods of time at a very young age or demonstrate their gifts and talents by using a large vocabulary, constant deep questioning, creativity, and/or exceptional ability in a particular area. Differences commonly found between most gifted learners and their age peers are advanced comprehension, a faster pace of learning and a need for schoolwork that provides activities which are both complex and fast-paced. Parents should consult their child's teacher, school counselor, or the district GATE department for additional information.*

Can a gifted child have disabilities too?

*Some gifted children have learning disabilities such as dyslexia, attention deficit disorder and visual or auditory processing difficulties. It is sometimes difficult to identify the special needs of these children because they often use their high abilities to cope with and mask their learning disabilities.*