



## Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)

### GATE Nomination Process

#### Grades 3-6

GATE is Gifted and Talented Education. The state requires that districts identify GATE students under one or more categories from the six described in AB2313. Giftedness is defined by the State of California as:

“Students who are enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school and are identified as possessing demonstrated or potential abilities that give evidence of high performance capability, are enrolled in Gifted and Talented Education (GATE). High performance capability is defined by each school district governing board. Each district shall use one or more of the following categories in defining the capability: intellectual, creative, specific academic, leadership, high achievement, performing and visual arts talent, or any other criterion proposed by the district and approved by the State Board of Education in the district's GATE application.”

As a district, our goal is to provide support to teachers and schools to ensure that every student is challenged and makes significant progress during each school year. Bellflower Unified School District identifies gifted students in five categories:

1. **Intellectual Ability** defined as demonstrated or potential intellectual development exemplified by products or behaviors that exhibit excellence or acceleration in relation to chronological peers. Identified with NNAT2 testing.
2. **High Achievement** defined as students who score at a superior academic level in two or more areas on a standardized achievement test and demonstrating ability above peers.
3. **Specific Academic Ability** defined as those consistently functioning at an advanced academic level in one particular subject area.
4. **Advanced Band** defined as demonstrating superior musical ability.
5. **Performance Arts** defined as demonstrating superior ability in music and/or performance by qualifying for Ensemble.

#### Steps for Qualification

##### Step 1: Second Grade Testing

All students in the second grade are screened for the GATE program as part of the district's universal screening program unless parents do not give permission or opt out of testing. The Naglieri Non-Verbal Ability (NNAT2) assessment is administered for all students at the end of the school year.

## Step 2: **Nominate by Referral**

Students who demonstrate exceptional performance may be nominated for the GATE Referral Process by teachers, administrators, or parent/guardians. Nomination may be based on standardized academic data or academic testing.

## Step 3: **Further Evaluation**

A GATE Identification Worksheet may be filled out by the GATE facilitator and the child's teacher, and includes:

- Academic work (report card grades, STAR Test)
- Intellectual capability is measured by NNAT2.
- GATE Screening Worksheet, submitted by your child's teacher, indicates readiness for the GATE program.
- Performing Arts students are selected by auditions.

A GATE Identification Worksheet may be completed for students entering third grade and for those students that have been recommended for evaluation in third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades.

## Step 4: **Notification**

The parent/guardian of students who are identified as gifted are sent a letter indicating the student's status and how the student is qualified.

## Step 5: **Placement**

Students will be placed with qualified teachers in a classroom setting where they will be challenged according to their ability.

## Step 6: **Program Participation**

Student enrolled in GATE for high achieving or high intellectual abilities will receive an invitation to participate in BUSD GATE Enrichment Program, which provides courses in art, language, science, writing, music, and computer courses after school. Other school-level program options include before or after school GATE classes and possible field trips.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What ability test is used for GATE identification?**

The Naglieri Non-verbal Ability Test Version 2 (NNAT2) is a non-verbal assessment of general cognitive ability without reliance on language or motor skills. It measures reasoning and problem solving progressive matrices with shapes and designs that are not unique to any cultural group. The NNAT2 is an abilities test, not an achievement test, and is administered online. Unlike achievement tests such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test, the NNAT2 does not measure how much a student has learned. Instead it focuses on a student's ability to display cognitive abilities that research have associated with academic success. It is not necessary for students to prepare for the test. There are no workbooks or study guides to prepare for the test.

Students have 30 minutes to answer the 48 questions on the NNAT2. The test is administered in the computer lab for all students.

### **My child was GATE identified in another school district. Will she be GATE identified in BUSD?**

When enrolling your child in at the appropriate school, please be sure to indicate your child's placement in GATE in your previous district. If you have aptitude test scores, please provide this information to the school as well. Your child will be admitted into the BUSD GATE program.

### **Will my elementary student need to be reevaluated upon entering secondary school?**

No, once a child is identified for GATE in BUSD, the designation remains through grade 12.

### **If a student is identified for the GATE program but does not chose to participate, is the identification status lost?**

Placement of GATE identified students is recommended, however, students who do not participate for a period of time do not lose their identification status.