
Nomination process

Nominations for the GATE program come from 3 main sources, automatic referrals due to high California Standards Test (CST) scores, and nominations from parents or staff who know the child well, and prior participation in another district or state.

Automatic referrals--Every summer, computer records of returning third grade students are screened for extremely high scorers. Children who scored at or above 440 on the CST English Language Arts test or 480 on the CST Math test are automatic candidates, as are English Learners who scored above 370 on the English Language Arts test. Parents of these children are mailed a letter in the late summer months asking for permission for their child to be tested and considered for the GATE program. This screening primarily helps to identify those students who meet the Academic Ability Criteria.

Parents and Staff--Any person who knows the child well and has seen the child perform at various tasks is encouraged to nominate extraordinarily bright students for GATE. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers, parents, principals, bilingual aides, and counselors. Nomination forms are available from the school secretary at each school site. Parents who would like to nominate their child must contact their child's teacher.

Incoming students--For students entering the district, parents are asked to complete a form as part of the registration process which asks if their child has participated in GATE programs in previous districts. Any parent who checks yes to their child having attended a GATE program in the past is provided a GATE nomination form. Upon receipt of the completed form, the psychologist reviews records from the previous school to determine if sufficient testing has already been completed to determine if he/she meets our criteria. Eligibility requirements vary from district to district and state to state. Based on prior testing and/or further testing by our district, an eligibility decision is made.
