



# Gifted/Talented Programs Parent Newsletter

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**LAUSD CORE BELIEFS:** 1. Start with students, 2. Families are our partners, 3. Success is in the classroom, 4. Diversity is our strength, 5. Effective teaching, leadership, and accountability are the keys to our success.

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## Understanding the Process for GATE Testing

Every year thousands of students from LAUSD schools, including affiliated and independent charters, are referred for testing to be identified as gifted in the Intellectual category. During the 2012-2013 school year alone Designated GATE Psychologists administered the assessments to 11,176 students, with another 4,600 still waiting to be tested from previous year. Due to high demand, loss of resources and limited personnel, there is often a significant amount of time that may pass between the submission of the referral, the administration of the test and notification of results. Please be aware of the following if your child is referred for GATE testing:



to items on the test. Doing so may invalidate the results of the test, requiring the child to be retested at a later time with another assessment

- Assure that the child gets a good night's rest and has breakfast before the test
- Be encouraging and minimize any anxiety the child may have about the test

**During the Test**  
Please understand that it is the discretion of the GATE psychologist to choose the most appropriate assessment to administer to the child. The school or parent may not request a specific test to be administered. However, testing accommodations may be given based on a child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), if applicable. The psychologist also has the discretion to discontinue testing if the child has prior knowledge about the test.

**After the Test**  
The school will receive a notification letter stating if the child is eligible or ineligible for the GATE program. It is the school's responsibility to forward this letter home. If many months have passed after the test was administered and the school has not yet notified the parent of the results, then contact the school's GATE Coordinator. If the school does not have a GATE Coordinator or if the parent needs to request a copy of the actual score, then call the Central GATE Office at (213) 241-6500.

The GATE identification process is a coordinated effort between the school, Central Office, local psychologists and parents. We thank you for your support, cooperation, and patience as we continue to serve the students of LAUSD.

- Before the Test**  
It is the *school's responsibility* to:
- Complete all paperwork and submit documentation to the local area Designated GATE Psychologist
  - Communicate questions/concerns about referrals directly to the Designated GATE Psychologist (not the Central GATE Office)
  - Notify the parent when the psychologist is coming to the school to test
- It is the *parent's responsibility* to:
- Sign and return the Parent Consent form to school in a timely manner
  - Not pre-expose the child to any part of the intellectual assessment or practice with items that may be similar

## What Does it Mean to Teach Gifted Learners Well?



The following suggestions are adapted from the article, "THE DOS AND DON'TS OF INSTRUCTION: What it Means to Teach Gifted Learners Well" by Carol Ann Tomlinson, Ed.D., University of Virginia.

- DO**
1. *Begin with good curriculum and instruction*
  2. *Pace instruction in response to the student's individual needs*
  3. *Increase the "degree of difficulty" to a level much higher than for students of the same age*
  4. *Support students in taking risks*

- DON'T**
1. *Ask students to do things they already know*
  2. *Have students do "more of the same stuff faster"*
  3. *Cut individual students loose from peers and teacher for long periods of time*
  4. *Structure activities for "filling time" because the rest of the class needs to finish*
  5. *Have students spend substantial time in the role of tutor or "junior teacher"*
  6. *Design activities rooted in novel, "enriching" or piece-meal learning experiences*

To read the full article, go to [www.nagc.org/teachgiftedlearners/well/asp](http://www.nagc.org/teachgiftedlearners/well/asp)

## Identification Update High Achievement and Specific Academic Categories

Schools have received the results for the 2013 California Standards Test (CST). For the second year in a row, Gifted/Talented Programs will use this information available in the system to automatically identify students for the High Achievement and Specific Academic Ability categories. Because it is no longer the responsibility of the school to find time and resources to fill out and submit applications, we have seen a significant increase in the percentage of identified gifted students. We are currently waiting for the 2013 data to be uploaded in the LAUSD GATE database. We will notify schools as soon as the system reflects the newly identified students. The schools, in turn, will notify parents by letter if their child has been identified in the High Achievement or Specific Academic Ability categories.

**Criteria for High Achievement**  
Students who have achieved scores of 455 in Math **and** 450 in English Language Arts for **two years** in a row will be automatically identified in the *High Achievement* category.

Current third-graders who took the OLSAT last year in second grade will also be automatically identified in the *High Achievement* category if they have a Total Age Percentile Score of 95 and above. Students who have a Total Age Percentile Score of 90-94 will also be identified if they also achieved scores of 455 in Math **and** 450 in English Language Arts.

**Criteria for Specific Academic Ability**  
Students who have achieved scores of 455 in Math **or** 450 in English Language Arts for **three years** in a row will be automatically identified in the *Specific Academic Ability* category. Secondary students with qualifying scores may also be identified in History/Social Science or Science.

Congratulations in advance to those students whose scores qualify them to be identified as gifted!

## DATES TO REMEMBER



- **Application Deadline for Saturday Conservatory of Fine Arts:** September 13
- **eChoices Magnet Application Period Opens:** October 1
- **First Day of Class for Conservatory Students:** October 5 (returning students); October 12 (newly accepted students)
- **Application Deadline for Visual/Performing Arts Auditions and Demonstrations:** October 18
- **eChoices Magnet Application Deadline:** November 13
- **Visual/Performing Arts Auditions and Demonstrations at Cal State LA:** November 16 (by invitation only)

### Stay Connected to Gifted/Talented Programs!



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