



Turlock Unified School District

GATE FAQs:

What is GATE and its purpose?

GATE is Gifted and Talented Education. The purpose of a GATE program is to meet the unique needs of gifted children.

What are the benefits of a GATE Program?

The GATE program will promote complex levels of thinking by working collaboratively, seeking innovative solutions, and challenging students' creative abilities. Students will become critical thinkers and problem solvers. Students will use increasingly complex levels of thinking and production.

How is the program differentiated or enhanced?

The GATE program meets the needs of gifted learners by enhancing the standards with depth, complexity, novelty, and acceleration. The program also meets the social and emotional needs of gifted learners. GATE students are asked to develop scholarly behaviors like pondering, considering different perspectives, taking intellectual risks, striving for excellence, and perseverance. GATE teachers focus on developing these skills by using:

- Novelty
- Depth and Complexity of Knowledge
- Acceleration

What are characteristics of gifted children?

Because gifted children are so diverse, not all exhibit all characteristics all of the time. However, there are common characteristics that many gifted individuals share:

- Unusual alertness, even in infancy
- Rapid learner; puts thoughts together quickly
- Excellent memory
- Unusually large vocabulary and complex sentence structure for age
- Advanced comprehension of word nuances, metaphors and abstract ideas
- Enjoys solving problems, especially with numbers and puzzles
- Often self-taught reading and writing skills as preschooler
- Deep, intense feelings and reactions
- Highly sensitive
- Thinking is abstract, complex, logical, and insightful
- Idealism and sense of justice at early age
- Concern with social and political issues and injustices
- Longer attention span and intense concentration
- Preoccupied with own thoughts—daydreamer
- Learn basic skills quickly and with little practice
- Asks probing questions
- Wide range of interests (or extreme focus in one area)
- Highly developed curiosity
- Interest in experimenting and doing things differently

- Puts idea or things together that are not typical
- Keen and/or unusual sense of humor
- Desire to organize people/things through games or complex schemas
- Vivid imaginations (and imaginary playmates when in preschool)

*National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC)

What are traits of giftedness?

No gifted individual is exactly the same, each with their own unique patterns and traits. There are many traits that gifted individuals have in common, but no gifted learner exhibits traits in every area. This list of traits may help you better understand whether or not your child is gifted.

Cognitive	Creative	Affective	Behavioral
Keen power of abstraction	Creativeness and inventiveness	Unusual emotional depth and intensity	Spontaneity
Interest in problem-solving and applying concepts	Keen sense of humor	Sensitivity or empathy to the feelings of others	Boundless enthusiasm
Voracious and early reader	Ability for fantasy	High expectations of self and others, often leading to feelings of frustration	Intensely focused on passions—resists changing activities when engrossed in own interests
Large vocabulary	Openness to stimuli, wide interests	Heightened self-awareness, accompanied by feelings of being different	Highly energetic—needs little sleep or down time
Intellectual curiosity	Intuitiveness	Easily wounded, need for emotional support	Constantly questions
Power of critical thinking, skepticism, self-criticism	Flexibility	Need for consistency between abstract values and personal actions	Insatiable curiosity
Persistent, goal-directed behavior	Independence in attitude and social behavior	Advanced levels of moral judgment	Impulsive, eager and spirited
Independence in work and study	Self-acceptance and unconcern for social norms	Idealism and sense of justice	Perseverance—strong determination in areas of importance
Diversity of interests and abilities	Radicalism		High levels of frustration—particularly when having difficulty meeting standards of performance (either imposed by self or others)
	Aesthetic and moral commitment to self-selected work		Volatile temper, especially related to perceptions of failure
			Non-stop talking/chattering

What is the location of the district’s elementary GATE Program?

Julien Elementary School.

What are the grades levels of the elementary GATE Program?

4th-6th grades

Is there a GATE program at the middle school /junior high school?

There is no GATE program at the middle school/junior high school. TUSD offers GATE ELA courses for 7th & 8th grades at Dutcher Middle and Turlock Junior High Schools. Additionally, both sites offer accelerated math courses, which include Math 8, Integrated Math I, and Integrated Math I Honors.

What is the criteria for GATE ELA courses at Dutcher Middle School and Turlock Junior High School?

GATE Identified students will have the opportunity to enroll in the GATE ELA courses at Dutcher Middle School and Turlock Junior High School.

How does my student get into the STEM Program at Turlock Junior High School?

Parents apply for their student(s) to be in the STEM Program at Turlock Junior High School. There is a lottery process to make final selections.

What programs are offered at the high schools?

All students at the high school level have opportunities for the following classes/courses or exams: Honors and Advanced Placement, Advance Placement Exams, Modesto Junior College Dual Enrollment, and CSU, Stanislaus courses.

What is the focused framework in the GATE classes?

The focused framework in GATE classes is Depth and Complexity, which is a set of tools that allow teachers to differentiate for any grade level or content area in a way that is straightforward to implement and effective. It is composed of eleven elements represented by a set of icons or pictures.

The most recognizable part of the Depth and Complexity framework is the set of eleven icons that represent the eleven thinking prompts.



Is transportation provided to the GATE Program?

At this time transportation is not provided to the District’s GATE Program.

If my child is placed in GATE, can siblings attend the school where the GATE program is located?

Enrollment of siblings is based on space availability.

Are the common core state standards and adopted core taught in the GATE classes?

Yes, both the common core state standards and adopted core are taught in GATE classes.

How are GATE classes different from a regular class?

GATE students are grouped with their intellectual peers with the goal of building the capacity for highly complex thinking and analysis in an interactive environment.

Is there more homework in a GATE class?

Acceleration does not mean more homework or more assignments. Acceleration means altering the pace or speed of learning and providing more sophisticated resources for learning. Homework is the same as regular classes.

At what grade level is the GATE test administered?

The GATE test is administered to all 3rd graders enrolled in TUSD, unless parents choose not to have their student participate in the test.

What test is administered for GATE?

The Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test - Third Edition (NNAT3). The NNAT3 is a nonverbal measure of general cognitive ability, yielding a norm-based score that can be used to identify students who are likely to have the potential for advanced scholastic achievement.

What instrument is used to provide considerations for multiple measures?

Hope Rating Scale. The Hope Rating Scale is a teacher instrument used to guide identifying gifted students.

How are students identified for GATE?

Two pathways are used to determine GATE Identification:

1. Score of 110 or higher on the (NNAT3)
2. Score of 100-109 on the NNAT3 and multiple measures

What is the process for GATE placement?

Based on the highest scale score ranking on the NNAT 3 and/or consideration of multiple measures. Parents are mailed a qualifying letter with their student's NNAT 3 score sheet and an Enrollment form for GATE placement at Julien. Depending on the number of qualified students wishing to enroll, there could be a wait list to enroll in the GATE Program.

If my child is eligible for GATE, what are my choices?

If your child was identified as GATE eligible, you would have two choices:

1. To keep your student at their current school, and the district will document GATE Identification in your student's profile in our student information system. No further steps to complete.
2. If you would like the opportunity to enroll your student in the GATE class, the process includes parents completing and returning the GATE Enrollment Form. (If your child has an Individualized Education Program and receives services, please refer to the section below.)

Can my child participate in GATE if they have and Individualized Education Program (IEP) and receives special education services?

A student with an IEP can enroll in a GATE class/program. An IEP meeting would need to be held with the student's current IEP team. The IEP team would need to review the student's current IEP placement and services and determine if those services are also available at the site where the GATE class/program is located. If a special administrator determines that the same placement and services are available at the site where the GATE class/program is located, the student may enroll in the GATE class/program.

Are the GATE classes self-contained or a GATE strand within a self-contained class?

Depending on the number of qualified students wishing to enroll, the class could either be self-contained or a GATE strand.

If I do not get my school of choice, is there a waiting list?

Yes, there is a waiting list to enroll.

Is there a GATE Parent Orientation Night? When?

Yes. The GATE Parent Orientation Night is held in January/ February.

When does testing occur? Where?

See District's Testing Calendar.

Testing occurs at each elementary school.

When will I get the results?

January/February

Will my student have to be retested each year to stay in the GATE Program?

Once students have been identified as GATE, they will not have to retake the test.

Is the grading the same for GATE and non-GATE students?

Yes. All students are graded on their report card using the State Grade Level Standards and the District's Standards-Based Report Card.

Do GATE students have the opportunity to be a part of the school activities?

Yes. GATE students participate in all grade level school activities.

Where can I find more information about gifted children?

1. California Department of Education, <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/gt/>
2. National Association of Gifted Children, <https://www.nagc.org/>
3. Turlock Unified School District Board Policy 6172 (Board Policies can be found on district webpage)
4. Gifted and Bright <https://gatecalgary.ca/identification/bright-vs-gifted/>