



PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Academic Services

MEMO

DATE: May 1, 2014
TO: Jon Gundry, Superintendent, and Board of Education
CC: Brian McDonald, Ed.D
FROM: Hoori Chalian, M.Ed.
RE: GATE Program Annual Update

The Pasadena Unified School District offers a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program for eligible students in grades 3 - 12. The GATE program is designed to meet the unique needs of gifted and talented students, and to maximize their academic and social development. Services for gifted and talented students are planned and organized as integrated differentiated learning experiences within the regular school day. Some PUSD sites employ part-time grouping – classes or seminars that are organized to provide advanced or enriched subject matter for part of the school day. Some PUSD sites employ cluster grouping – students are grouped within a regular classroom setting and receive appropriately differentiated curriculum from the regular classroom teacher. This service delivery model used in all elementary schools is available to ensure positive motivation and the intellectual growth of gifted students. Classroom instruction begins with the grade level core curriculum and is differentiated based upon student need and ability ensuring positive motivation and the intellectual growth of gifted students.

Identification of Students

Student eligibility for participation in the GATE program begins in second grade. All students in 2nd grade are assessed using the Coloured Raven Matrices (Raven). All students in 5th grade are assessed using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). Parents, teachers, and administrators can recommend students in grades 3-11 to participate in GATE testing. Students in 2nd and 3rd grade take the Raven; 4th and up take the Cognitive Abilities Test

GATE Qualification Criteria

Students in grade 2 -3 must meet a minimum score requirement on the Raven.

Students in grades 4-11 must meet minimum scores in **two** batteries for possible identification in the area of *Intellectual Ability* or *Academic Achievement* and in **one** battery for possible identification in the area of *Specific Academic Achievement* on the CogAT. Students are not identified based on the GATE test alone.

Additional qualification requirements include:

- Advanced CST scores in ELA and Math
- District benchmark scores from current school year in ELA and Math
- GATE Characteristics Survey: Teachers are trained to look for research-based characteristics of gifted learners from diverse populations. Teachers complete a form for every student being evaluated, not only those who “pass the GATE test”

Students who have a high score on Teacher Observation Form, but low GATE test scores or low CST scores, go through the Alternative Identification Process which includes: CELDT sub-scores and Overall scores for this year and last year, CST scores with growth from last year, Report Card Grades with growth during this year, portfolio/work samples, school-based GATE Student Study Team

The district's GATE program serves a total of 2,208 students. The table below displays the number of GATE identified students. Note, this table does not include those students who have yet to be identified as a result of the 2013-14 testing cycle.

Elementary Schools	# of Students
Altadena Elementary	5
Cleveland Elementary	2
Field Elementary	38
Franklin Elementary	11
Hamilton Elementary	67
Jackson Elementary	15
Jefferson Elementary	23
Longfellow Elementary	20
Madison Elementary	17
Roosevelt Elementary	4
San Rafael Elementary	29
Sierra Madre Elementary	152
Focus Point Academy	1
Webster Elementary	34
Willard Elementary	42
Norma Coombs Alternative	30
Don Benito Fundamental	90
Mc Kinley Elementary	74
Washington Accelerated Elementary	18
Total	671

Secondary Schools	# of Students
Blair High	141
Center for Independent Study	14
Eliot Middle	58
Marshall Fundamental	498
McKinley	79
Muir High	61
Pasadena High	364
Sierra Madre Middle	179
Washington Middle	45
Wilson Middle	94
Total	1,533

Year	# Tested in 2 nd Grade	# Tested in 3 rd Grade	# Tested in 4 th Grade	# Tested in 5 th Grade	# Tested in 6 th -11 th Grades	# Identified for GATE
2013-14	1498	96	62	1052	0	TBD
2012-13	1394	71	60	1027	145	369 – Elementary 29 – MS/HS

GATE Student Achievement

10 th Grade CAHSEE Pass Rate (2013)		
	ELA	Math
GATE (200 students)	100%	99%
District Average (1227 students)	79%	77%

CST % Advanced (2013)		
	ELA	Math (all)
GATE (1937 students)	66%	49%
District Average (12,248 students)	22%	22%

District Benchmark Assessment 2014 Trimester Two			
		ELA Overall Proficiency Level	Math Overall Proficiency Level
Grade 3	GATE	4.26	4.57
	District Average	3.89	3.28
Grade 4	GATE	4.14	4.60
	District Average	3.75	3.34
Grade 5	GATE	3.99	4.51
	District Average	3.04	3.52

Far Below	
Basic	Advanced
1	5

Middle School Junior Docent Program

The Junior Docent program is designed to provide a peer-teaching experience for exceptional students. Students develop skills in leadership, time management, and public speaking while at the same time making a significant contribution to the community. Conducting tours for younger visitors and adults alike gives Junior Docents increased self-confidence and promotes quick thinking skills.

A total of 44 GATE students in 7th and 8th grades have completed the Junior Docent Training program at Gamble House and the Pasadena Museum of History. They are now in the process of leading museum tours for all PUSD third grade classes.

Blair: 4 students

Eliot: 1 student

Marshall: 18 students

McKinley: 4 students

Sierra Madre: 8 students

Wilson: 9 students

Students who participate in the Junior Docent program at either location must commit to attending the full training program which consists of seven two-hour training classes that are held at the Pasadena Museum of History or the Gamble House on Wednesdays during September and October. Junior Docents are also required to complete weekly homework assignments as part of their training. Adult Docents train Junior Docents by giving instructions on techniques for conducting a tour and leading small groups in studying the rooms and architecture. Guest speakers illustrate their lectures with slide presentations. Training concludes with a Family Day Open House, where Junior Docents give their first tours to their families and friends. Tours are given to third grade classrooms from PUSD from November through May. Junior Docents are supported by Adult Docents during the tours and receive feedback and suggestions for improving the tour afterward.

Math Field Day

Nearly 550 PUSD students participated in Math Field Day this year. This event is open to all interested PUSD students in grades 4-9 regardless of their GATE classification. This year, students participated in a new assessment model reflective of LACOE's Math Field Day model requiring students to demonstrate critical thinking skills, effective collaboration and problem solving acumen. The event is a success due to large volunteer corps – 100 teachers, administrators, parents, and community members served as proctors, scorers, logistical support, and runners. Generous sponsorship by the Webster Foundation helps cover the costs associated with this annual co-funded event.

GATE Representative Meetings

Each school site designates a staff member and/or a parent representative to the district GATE Representative Advisory Committee. We have held two meetings thus far. Our next meeting is

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scheduled for May 13th. Each meeting provides an opportunity to spotlight GATE success stories from each represented school. In addition, representatives engage in program planning discussions specific to the development of student programs, parent education, and/or professional development. As a result of these planning discussions, the committee has decided to hold a GATE Orientation Seminar in September 2014 for all parents of students who have qualified for the GATE program. The purpose of this event is to provide parents with a general overview of what their child will experience through participation in the PUSD GATE program as well as hear from specialists in the world of gifted and talented education so that parents can best support their children outside the school day. Another outcome of our GATE representative meetings is a list of desired topics for parent workshops and professional development workshops. This year, PUSD contracted with Dr. Paige McCord, Adjunct Assistant Professor at USC and Dr. Morgan Appel, Director of Educational Programs at UC San Diego Extension. Dr. McCord presented a parent workshop titled, “Supporting Social and Emotional Needs of Gifted Students.” Dr. Appel’s presentation was titled, “Understanding the Gifted Child” and described how the gifted brain functions.

Professional Development

A total of 185 certificated employees are currently GATE certified in PUSD as indicated in the tables below. In order to be GATE certified, teachers must complete 30 hours of professional development. Course/workshop topics include GATE nomination, identification, assessment, differentiated instruction, classroom management, social-emotional needs, as well as resources, strategies, and classroom applications. In order to sustain their status as “GATE Certified” teachers must complete six hours of recertification professional development every three years.

Elementary School	# GATE Certified
Altadena	4
Cleveland	4
Don Benito	13
Field	5
Franklin	4
Hamilton	9
Jackson	2
Jefferson	7
Longfellow	5
Madison	1
McKinley	12
NCAS	6
Roosevelt	1
San Rafael	3
Sierra Madre	16
WAES	7
Webster	8
Willard	9
TOTAL	117

Secondary School	# GATE Certified
Blair	7
Eliot MS	7
Sierra Madre MS	10
Marshall	13
Washington MS	8
Wilson MS	7
Muir HS	3
Pasadena HS	5
Rose City HS	1
TOTAL	61

Education Center	# GATE Certified
Elementary Coaches	4
Coordinator-Intervention & Innovative Programs	1
Coordinator-Professional Development	1
Coordinator, LEARNS	1
TOTAL	7

Two GATE professional development workshops were offered on March 31st as part of the districtwide Professional Development day held at PHS. Dr. Paige McCord presented two sessions titled, “what do the Common Core State Standards mean for GATE Students? Her presentation focused on Kaplan’s iconic prompts of depth and complexity, and effective strategies for differentiating 21st century learning. Teachers from elementary, middle, and high schools participated in these sessions. Workshops attendees indicated positive feedback on the evaluations.

Budget

The table below reflects the GATE allocation for the past 3 years.

Resource	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
07140.0	\$49,709	\$75,022	\$100,000

In addition to this resource, the GATE program has a balance in resource 90000.0 in the amount of \$118,843. In order to assure sustainability of GATE program in the coming years despite the pattern of declining funding levels, funds in resource 90000.0 have been left unencumbered this year. A portion of these funds will be used to offer a full GATE certification course cycle in Summer 2014. In addition, a portion of these funds will be used for contracted services for student enrichment programs for the 2014-15 school year and for the Parent Orientation Symposium to be held in September 2014.

Program Improvements

An audit of all GATE activities at each PUSD school has been conducted. Attached to this report is a checklist that shows how each school's GATE activities are aligned with the PUSD GATE Plan. In addition, each site was asked to submit a succinct statement highlighting a marquee/headlining site-based GATE activity. Results of this audit indicate a need for additional enrichment opportunities for GATE students within the school day and beyond. Planning discussions are underway for the 2014-15 school year to ensure consistent delivery of rigorous enrichment activities across the district. In addition, it would be helpful to survey GATE students, parents, and teachers to provide feedback to guide implementation and improvements to the program. Results of the survey would subsequently be shared with the GATE representatives, district administrators, and the Board of Education.