



PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**Academic Services**  
**Innovative Programs**  
*OUR CHILDREN. LEARNING TODAY. LEADING TOMORROW.*

TO: Brian McDonald, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
 CC: Shawn Bird, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer  
 FROM: Hoori Chalian, Director Innovative Programs  
 DATE: May 20, 2016  
 RE: Friday Communiqué – Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Annual Update

Below is an overview of work and activities that have taken place over the course of the year as well as work in progress and next steps. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**\*\*STUDENTS\*\***

**GATE Testing**

Per policy, PUSD conducts universal screening of all students in grade 2 and grade 5. Parents, teachers, and administrators can recommend students in grades 3-11 to participate in GATE testing. Students in 2nd and 3rd grade take the Coloured Raven Matrices; 4th and up take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).

The table below reflects the number of students screened for GATE eligibility and the number of qualifying students in each grade level in 2015-2016. Taking into account these numbers, PUSD now has a total of 2,318 GATE identified students enrolled in our schools.

Grade	# Tested in 2015-16	# Met Criteria in 2015-16
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1,386	170
3 <sup>rd</sup>	198	54
4 <sup>th</sup>	123	11
5 <sup>th</sup>	1,135	13
6 <sup>th</sup>	6	2
7 <sup>th</sup>	49	4
8 <sup>th</sup>	41	4
Total Elementary	2,842	248
Total Middle School	96	10
Total Districtwide	2,938	258

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Code to the Future Coding Club Pilot Program**

Code to the Future’s coding class integrates both programming and game design, giving students a fun and well-rounded understanding of how to utilize technology to create, not just consume. Students from the following sites participated in this pilot program with Code to the Future:

Longfellow – 15 students  
 Hamilton – 18 students  
 NCES – 18 students  
 San Rafael – 18 students  
 Washington – 15 students  
 Sierra Madre – 34 students  
 Cleveland – 22 students

Jefferson – 10 students  
 Field – 31 students  
 Don Benito – 16 students  
 Webster – 17 students  
 Willard – 10 students  
 Roosevelt – 10 students

**Innovation Club**

Every elementary school and every middle school (including 6-12 schools) had active Innovation Clubs (IC) this year. Teacher facilitators have completed an online feedback survey to provide helpful information for future IC plans. Based on this information, all teachers reported positive responses regarding students’ experience in IC, they report 392 students regularly attended/participated in their IC sessions (of those at least 300 were GATE identified students), 16 reported that they would like to facilitate IC again next year, and all respondents recommended that we continue to use the instructional resources through Curiosity Machine.

### **Innovation Exposition**

The Pasadena Unified School District's Innovation Exposition was held on April 8, 2016 at McKinley's new gymnasium. The Innovation Expo is a now more engaging and relevant approach to the old school science fair aimed at inspiring students to think critically and explore their interests and talents in STEM by offering five elective categories from which students can choose: Invention, Science Fiction, Environmental Innovation, Engineering (Reverse), and Scientific Inquiry. Students in grades K-3 were automatically placed in the non-competitive arena. Students in grades 4-9 were provided the option to allow judges to critique their project, or simply display it for viewing. Collaborative groups of 2-3 were permitted to work on projects and, in the noncompetitive arena, even parents and mentors were able to work in tandem with students.

### **Junior Docent Program**

Nearly 50 GATE identified students in grades 7 and 8 participated in the Junior Docent Program at the Pasadena Museum of History and Gamble House. Students learned about the exhibits at their respective institutions and subsequently led tours for their families and for all PUSD 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms throughout this school year. This program is an opportunity for our middle school students to learn about local history and to practice their public speaking and presentation skills.

### **Math Field Day**

Math Field Day is a contest for students in grades 4-9 to demonstrate knowledge of mathematics through competition and celebration. The event also serves as a culmination to a year-long instructional program focused on the California Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

Participation allows students to demonstrate their math knowledge through competition in the following elements:

- computational and procedural skill (8 individual tasks)
- conceptual understanding (2 team tasks)
- problem-solving (1 team task)

This year we had 536 participating students representing 26 schools. The success of this event is hinged upon the gracious support of countless volunteers, proctors, coaches, team supporters. Nearly all of the donor funding is used to fund the purchase of participant ribbons and medals (approx. \$3,600), food for students, volunteers, proctors, and coaches (approx. \$5,400), and small portion is used to fund prizes for the volunteer teachers who are scoring the tests (\$1,000).

### ***\*\*PARENTS\*\****

#### **GATE Parent Education**

Dr. Morgan Appel from UCSD facilitated five parent education workshops during the 2015-16 school year.

- New GATE Parent Orientation – 75 people in attendance
- Doubling Down: Understanding and Supporting Twice Exceptional Students – 24 people in attendance
- Navigating the Affective Minefield: A Primer for Parents on Socio-Emotional Characteristics of Giftedness – 28 people in attendance
- Weathering the Storm: A Parent's Guide to Supporting Underperforming GATE Students – 24 people in attendance
- Steady as She Goes: A Parent's Guide to the GATE student in transition

### ***\*\*STAFF\*\****

#### **GATE Certification/Recertification Professional Development**

A total of 48 hours of professional development training was offered to PUSD teachers in collaboration with UCSD.

Eleven teachers completed training to renew their GATE certification. Seven teachers completed training and were granted GATE certification. Others are in process of completing the required 30 hours for initial certification. Two summer training workshops will be offered specifically for teachers in need of renewing their certification. Teachers must complete six hours of training to successfully renew their GATE certification and can select either training day. PUSD has approximately 130 GATE certified teachers with a goal to increase that number by 10% each year per LCAP targets.

### ***\*\*PROGRAM REVIEW\*\****

#### **Hanover Research Project**

We are in talks with Hanover hoping to have them conduct (1) a secondary research piece which would examine published literature and summarize best practices for GATE (including multiple measure screening/identification and differentiated instruction) with special attention to what works especially well with underrepresented groups of students and classrooms with fewer GATE students;

and (2) a primary research piece where they will conduct in-depth interviews with other school districts about components of their GATE programs and provide a summary of common practices and their observed effectiveness.

**Website Update**

The GATE webpage was revamped to include easily accessible resources for parents and teachers as well as upload videos of all parent education workshops.

**GATE Budget**

Attached for your reference is a summary of expenditures supporting GATE program priorities (set by GATE representatives' committee), activities and services as outlined in the LCAP.

LCFF - 070910.0								
DATE	PR/REC	School/Dept	Fund Locat	Of	Vendor/Name	Description/Title	Amount	Goal
7/1/15		GATE	0000261	5835	Canon Financial Services	Maintenance Agreement for Copier	\$ 1,519.87	1.13
8/19/15	2838	GATE	0000261	4310	Smart & Final	Blanket PO for Supplies - meetings and Innovation Club	\$ 1,000.00	1.13
7/1/15		GATE	0000261	2910	Kathleen Saldana	Program Assistant, 60% LCFF, 40% T1	\$ 33,752.00	1.13
7/20/15		GATE	0000261	4310	Hoori Chalian	Reimbursement for GATE Teacher Training	\$ 29.90	1.13
9/3/15		GATE	0000261		Field Trip Requests	27 Buses for Pasadena Museum of History	\$ 3,780.00	1.13
9/3/15	various	GATE	0000261	5810	Field Trip Requests	27 Buses to Pasadena Museum of History - 2015-16	\$ 3,780.00	1.13
3/29/16	170318, 1703	GATE	0000261	5810	Field Trip Requests	2 Buses for West Pasadena Schools to McKinley	\$ 280.00	1.13
10/19/15	1004633	GATE	0000261		Patricia Jimenez	Children Services Assistant II	\$ 300.00	1.13
10/29/15	1004635	GATE	0000261		Supplemental	GATE Site Teacher Representatives	\$ 9,000.00	1.13
10/29/15	3839	GATE	0000261		Riverside Publishing	Answer Sheets for Cognitive Abilities	\$ 2,786.69	1.13
10/30/15	3877	GATE	0000261		Pearson Education	Raven's CPM Classic Test	\$ 3,508.65	1.13
1/4/16	4340	GATE	0000261	5850	University of California San Diego	Outside Consultant, PD for teachers working with GATE identified students and parent education	\$ 4,000.00	1.13
3/3/16	4980	GATE	0000261	5810	LACOE - Mathematics Education & Program	Registration for five PUSD Teams for 2016 LACOE Annual Math Field Day	\$ 750.00	1.13
1/21/16	1007488	GATE	0000261	1110	Vacant	Teacher for Math Academy	\$ 30,000.00	1.13
1/20/16	1004638	GATE	0000261	2930	Vacant	Project Aides for Math Academy, 500 hours	\$ 10,500.00	1.13
8/19/15	2837	GATE	0000261	4310	Office Depot	Blanket PO for Supplies -office and Innovation Club	\$ 2,500.00	1.13
11/1/15	1004637	GATE	0000261	1130	Supplemental	Innovation Club Facilitators	\$ 40,000.00	1.13
10/8/15	170313	GATE-Blair & Muir	0000261		Field Trip Requests	Carnegie Observatories	\$ 140.00	1.13
10/8/15	170314	GATE-PHS & Marsha	0000261		Field Trip Requests	Carnegie Observatories	\$ 140.00	1.13
5/11/16	5924	GATE	0000261	4310	Houghton Mifflin Co.	GATE Testing BSCSV COGAT 6 A/S COR CMP	\$ 6,251.54	1.13
6/25/15	129853	GATE-SMMS	0000261		Jack Froelich Trophies	MFD Ribbons	\$ 272.50	1.13
1/14/16		GATE	0000261	5850	American Chess Institute	Computer Coding Classes	\$ 26,820.00	1.13
4/27/15	5798	GATE	0000261	5610	Dolphin Event Services	Chairs and tables for Math Field Day	\$ 433.13	1.13
							\$ 181,544.28	