Los Angeles Unified Gifted Education 101

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Gifted/Talented Programs
Advanced Learning Options
Office of the Chief of Special Education, Equity and Specialized Programs
Click on Interpretation
Haga clic en Interpretación

Please select your language for the meeting. If you are using a cell phone, select “More” to select your language.

Por favor seleccione su idioma para la reunión. Si usted está usando un teléfono celular, por favor seleccione “MORE” o “MÁS” para escoger su idioma.
CLOSED CAPTIONING AVAILABLE

SUBTÍTULOS DISPONIBLE
Susanna Furfari, Coordinator
susanna.furfari@lausd.net

Kevin Kilpatrick, Coordinator
kevin.kilpatrick@lausd.net

Dr. Nicole Niederdeppe, Coordinator
nnn8729@lausd.net

Wynne Wong-Cheng, Coordinator, GATE Psychological Services
wynne.wong@lausd.net

Erin Yoshida-Ehrmann, Interim Director
emy2142@lausd.net

Rasienna Forss, Specialist
rasienna.willars@lausd.net

Michelle Papazyan, Coordinator
mpapazya@lausd.net
Gifted/ Talented Programs
Advanced Learning Options

Office Phone
(213) 241-6500

General Inquiry Email
GATE@lausd.net

Website
http://achieve.lausd.net/gate

Address
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 25th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Objectives

• Parents will gain a deeper understanding of gifted/talented education identification and program options in Los Angeles Unified.

• Parents will get the answers to the most frequently asked questions.
At the end of the presentation, please use the Q&A feature to ask questions.

We will be using the chat to send important links.
Let’s Get started!
What are the areas of Gifted/Talented Identification?

Gifted/Talented Programs identifies students in seven categories.
Categories of Identification

**Intellectual Ability** (Second semester kindergarten and above)
Students whose general intellectual development is markedly advanced in relation to their chronological peers; evidenced by District psychological testing (testing may begin as early as second semester of kindergarten)

**High Achievement Ability** (Fifth grade and above and second grade OLSAT only)
Students who consistently function for two consecutive years at highly advanced levels in English-language arts and mathematics; evidenced by test scores (second graders may also be identified in High Achievement with the OLSAT-8)

**Specific Academic Ability** (Fifth grade and above)
Students who consistently function for three consecutive years at highly advanced levels in either English-language arts or mathematics; evidenced by test scores/grades
Categories of Identification

Creative Ability (Second grade and above)
Students who characteristically perceive significant similarities or differences within the environment, challenge assumptions, and produce unique alternative solutions; evidenced by district portfolio or presentation review

Leadership Ability (Second grade and above)
Students who show confidence and knowledge; influence others effectively; have problem-solving and decision making skills; express ideas in oral or written form clearly; show sense of purpose and direction; evidenced by district portfolio or presentation review
Categories of Identification

**Visual Arts Ability** (Second grade and above)
Students who originate, perform, produce, or respond at exceptionally high levels in drawing and painting; evidenced by district portfolio review

**Performing Arts Ability** (Second grade and above)
Students who originate, perform, produce, or respond at exceptionally high levels in either dance, music (voice), or drama; evidenced by district audition
How do I have my child tested for giftedness?

All referrals are initiated at the school site. Please speak to the GATE coordinator at your child’s school about initiating the screening process.
I received a notification letter that my child was found to be eligible in one of the gifted categories. What do I do now?

There is no action required for parents once their child is identified as gifted. It is strongly recommended that you follow-up with your child’s teacher and the GATE Coordinator to determine how gifted/talented students are clustered with other gifted students and how the curriculum and instruction is differentiated. In addition, parents have the option to apply to a School for Advanced Studies (SAS), a gifted magnet center or the Conservatory of Fine Arts depending on the category of identification.
I’ve been receiving phone calls and emails from Gifted/Talented Programs. Has my child been identified as gifted?

We publicize our events by sending phone calls and emails to parents of students that are identified as gifted/talented and those that attend Schools for Advanced Studies. Here are three ways to check if your child has been identified as gifted/talented:

1. Contact your child’s school
2. Check the Parent Portal
3. Call Gifted/Talented Programs
How can I get a copy of the notification letter (for eligibility or ineligibility)?

Your child’s current LAUSD school can print a copy of the notification letter for you from the “MiSiS” student information system. You can also print a copy from the Parent Portal. The Parent Portal is not the same as Schoology. You will not find the letter on Schoology.
How do I get to the Parent Portal to get a copy of my child’s identification letter?

1. Go to: http://parentportal.lausd.net
Parent Portal

2. When you click the LOGIN/REGISTER button, this page will appear. Click on Login.
3. Select the role “Parents”
Parent Portal

4. On the Dashboard, select your child.
5. Click on the orange circle “GATE Programs.”
6. Once on the Gifted/Talented Programs Information page, click on the bottom right corner for the GATE Letter.
How can I get a copy of my child’s test results?

Results can be requested from our office by completing the “Parent Request for Assessment Results” form found on our website.
GATE Website

1. Go to http://achieve.lausd.net/gate and select “Families” tab. (Note: this appears differently on a mobile phone.)
2. This is an image of the family page of our website.
GATE Website

3. You will need to scroll down and look for a series of links on your right. Under “Assessment and Identification” you will see the link to “Request Your Child’s Assessment Scores.”
4. Once on the Request page, you will need to click on the “Click here” link to download the request form. There is a Spanish version of the form further down the page.
PARENT/GUARDIAN REQUEST FOR ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Date: __________________________

To whom it may concern,

This is to request a copy of my child’s assessment results in the following category:

☐ Intellectual Ability
☐ Visual/Performing Arts Ability
- Demonstration in ☐ Visual Arts
- Audition in ☐ Dance ☐ Drama ☐ Voice

Student Last Name: __________________________
Student First Name: __________________________
Date of Birth: __________________________
District ID: __________________________
Current School: __________________________
Grade: __________________________
School where tested: __________________________
Date of Assessment: __________________________
Parent Name: __________________________
Residence Address: __________________________
City/Zip Code: __________________________
What is the difference between being identified as gifted in the Intellectual Ability Category versus the High Achievement Category?

The Intellectual Ability and High Achievement offer students different pathways to gifted identification.

- The Intellectual Ability Category identifies students whose general intellectual development is markedly advanced in relation to their chronological peers.

- The High Achievement Ability Category identifies students in grades 5 and above who consistently function for two consecutive years at highly advanced levels in both English-Language Arts/reading (elementary), English (secondary), and mathematics. Students in second grade may be identified in High Achievement Ability based on the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT-8).
My child was identified as gifted in the High Achievement Category. Should they be tested in the Intellectual Category?

If a student shows potential that he/she may be highly gifted, then an Intellectual Ability Category referral may be submitted by the school.
What does Highly Gifted mean?

The term “highly gifted” refers to students who receive a 99.9 percentile rank on the Intellectual Ability assessment given by a District GATE Psychologist. No other identification category has a highly gifted designation. Highly gifted students may apply to Highly Gifted Magnets.
My child received a score of 99 on the OLSAT-8. Does that mean my child is highly gifted?

No. The OLSAT-8 is an achievement/aptitude test used to determine eligibility in the High Achievement Category. The only assessment that can determine if a child is highly gifted is an intellectual assessment.

If your child scored in the 99th percentile rank on the OLSAT-8, then the school should your child for Intellectual Ability testing automatically.
What does highly gifted applicable (HGA) mean?

Students who receive a 99.5 - 99.8 percentile rank on the Intellectual assessment are considered “highly gifted applicable” and may also apply to Highly Gifted Magnets if space is available.
How can I have my child tested for highly gifted?

There is no separate test for highly gifted identification. The results of an intellectual ability assessment will determine eligibility as well as determine distinction between gifted, highly gifted applicable (HGA) or highly gifted (HG).
My child was identified as gifted in the High Achievement Category. My child then took the Intellectual assessment and was found to be ineligible. Is my child still considered gifted by the District or does my child lose that designation?

A student’s eligibility as gifted does not change once they are identified even if they are found to be ineligible in another category. Students can be identified in one or more gifted categories. Your child’s designation as gifted will remain in the District system throughout their time in LAUSD.
My child was assessed by a private psychologist and found to be intellectually gifted. Will the District accept these results?

No. For identification in the Intellectual Category, assessments must be administered by an LAUSD designated GATE psychologist. Private assessment results may be used as part of the screening process to support the child’s referral.
Can my child be identified in more than one category?

Yes. It is possible for a student to be identified in more than one category. It is not uncommon for a student to be identified in High Achievement and Intellectual Ability. We also have many students that are identified in Intellectual Ability and one of the arts categories. Students can also be identified in more than one art category.
How can I have my child tested for identification in Math (or Reading)?

Students are automatically identified as gifted in math (or reading). That category is called Specific Academic Ability. Eligibility in this category is based on test scores and report card grades. There is no referral process unless your child is new to our District and meets the criteria based on scores from their previous District. In that case, please speak to the GATE Coordinator at your child’s school.
What support services should my school offer my child now that my child is identified as gifted/talented?

All schools must cluster students and provide differentiation within the regular school day. Teachers of gifted and talented students differentiate the core curriculum through various means: flexible student groups, interest centers, learning centers, adjusting questions, use of above-grade-level resources, independent study projects, different levels of assignments, mentorships, and/or honors and advanced placement courses.
Are there different school options for gifted students?

Gifted students identified in Intellectual, High Achievement, Specific Academic, Creative and Leadership Ability can stay at their resident school or apply one of the following options:

- Schools for Advanced Studies
- Gifted Magnets

Additional options:
- Honors classes are offered in middle schools and high schools
- Advanced Placement classes are offered at the high school level

Note that only students identified as highly gifted or highly gifted applicable can apply to Highly Gifted Magnets.
What is Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS)?

SAS demonstration sites are resident schools that receive the SAS designation for their exemplary Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) implementation. By providing high-quality differentiated instruction with an emphasis on depth, complexity, acceleration and novelty, SAS sites offer high-level academic opportunities that meet the unique educational needs of K–12 gifted learners, identified in the Intellectual, High Achievement, Specific Academic, Creative and Leadership Ability categories or verified based on critical thinking/achievement.
How is a School for Advanced Studies (SAS) site different from a Gifted Magnet?

- Magnet Programs are Court-Ordered voluntary integration opportunities available to students in grades K-12 living within the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).
- Currently there are 50 Gifted Magnets and 4 Highly Gifted Magnets.
- Gifted Magnets begin in first grade and Highly Gifted Magnets begin in second grade. SAS sites begin in kindergarten.
- Gifted/Highly Gifted Magnets offer self-contained classes.
- Both place emphasis on developing higher-level thinking skills in a demanding academic program for students.
- Magnets may offer transportation to students while SAS sites do not.
What options are there for students identified as talented in the arts?

Once a student is identified as talented in the Visual and/or Performing Arts, they will receive an invitation to participate in the Saturday Conservatory of Fine Arts. In addition, the local school should differentiate the instruction in the student’s area of talent.
If my child auditions in the performing arts in the area of dance and does not qualify, can they be assessed again?

Students can be reassessed the following school year in these categories:

• Visual Arts
• Performing Arts (Dance, Voice, Drama)
• Creative Ability
• Leadership Ability
Where can I get more information to support my child?

Our website has many resources for parents.

[achieve.lausd.net/gate](achieve.lausd.net/gate)
Thank You

Thanks

Merci

Gracias
Gifted/ Talented Programs
Advanced Learning Options

Susanna Furfari
susanna.furfari@lausd.net

Office Phone
(213) 241-6500

General Inquiry Email
GATE@lausd.net

Website
http://achieve.lausd.net/gate

Address
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 25th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017