

## “GIFTED AND TALENTED” DEFINED

The U.S. Office of Education, through research studies defines the gifted and talented as follows:

“Gifted and talented children are those...who by virtue of outstanding abilities are capable of high performance. These are children who require differentiated educational programs and/or services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program in order to realize their potential contribution to self and society.”

## IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION

In the ABC Unified School District, identification of children for the GATE program begins with all 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students being tested each Spring as part of the screening process. Second graders take the California Standards Tests which are required of all students in the state in grades 2-11. They also take a nonverbal ability test of matrix analogies. The screening process is completed with an observation form that is filled out by the child’s teacher. This form is based on observation of Renzulli’s 20 traits of gifted children. These results are combined to determine qualification for the GATE program. Students in grades 3-6 may be nominated for GATE by their teacher or parent. In addition to the state tests, 3-6 grade nominated students take the nonverbal test after school in March. A student may qualify with Intellectual Ability or with High Achievement according to the G.A.T.E. qualification criteria.

Students who are in Middle or High School can also be nominated for the GATE program. At this level, grade point averages are taken into

consideration as well as their standardized test scores. Once a child has been identified G.A.T.E., they remain in the G.A.T.E. program until a parent signs a release form. A parent can request a student be evaluated at any time.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Instructional approaches which offer a wide variety of uniquely different experiences appropriate to GATE students are utilized at all levels. All students experience the District’s Core Curriculum which is based on the California state standards. The GATE program offers differentiation, which means an adjustment of curriculum and instruction by using one or more of the following dimensions:

- **Depth-** venturing further, deeper and more elaborately into an area of study.
- **Complexity-** making connections, finding relationships and associations across subjects and disciplines.
- **Novelty-**individualized construction of meaning and opportunities to share what they know creatively.
- **Acceleration/Pacing-** altering the speed of learning and more sophisticated resources.

Projects and studies are based upon students’ abilities and interests.

## ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS

There are 3 types of GATE service delivery models at the elementary level:

1. **Cluster Class-** a regular classroom with a group of 5 or more GATE students. Students are serviced with an ongoing and challenging curriculum within the classroom.
2. **Special Day Class-** a regular, all day classroom where the majority of the students are GATE identified with the remainder of the class selected as capable of being successful in an accelerated environment.
3. **Individual Instructional Program-** a regular classroom setting with a specially designed and differentiated program agreed to by the student, parent and teacher.

All schools within the district provide services based on the needs of each school. It is up to the School Site Council to determine which model meets their needs. Generally, these decisions are based on the number of identified students at that school. Many schools with special day classes also have cluster classes due to the number of overflow students.

## SECONDARY PROGRAMS

**At the middle school level**, students must take at least one Honors class or they must do a special project in a CORE subject area that is supervised by the school’s GATE Coordinator. CORE subject areas are English, math, science and social studies.

**At the high school level**, students take honors, advanced placement classes, and/or do special projects. Projects are based on interests as well as needs and strengths. Students may also attend classes at a nearby college campus.

## PROGRAM GOALS

The purpose of the GATE program is to provide instruction designed to meet the special learning needs of the identified GATE students. Instructional approaches used offer a wide variety of unique experiences at all levels. The program is designed around six elements that are integrated into the curriculum and are provided to each student.

The goals of the program are:

- To stimulate students so they operate in increasingly complex levels of thinking and production
- To teach students to assume greater responsibility for their own learning
- To provide students with opportunities to develop and support constructive ethical standards and personal values
- To help students develop sensitivity and civic responsibility to others
- To help students become critical thinkers and problem solvers
- To help students develop leadership skills
- To help students meet and/or exceed the district and state content standards
- To identify and serve students from all socioeconomic and non-dominant backgrounds

**G.A.T.E. Site Coordinators**  
Call (562) 926-5566 and use the extension listed below:

### Elementary:

**Aloha:** Danielle Saldavia: ext. 22500  
**Bragg:** Elaine Swailes: ext. 22600  
**Burbank** Walter Matera: ext. 22700  
**Carver:** Larry Mazur: ext. 22800  
**Cerritos El.:** Amy Jeans: Ext. 22900  
**Elliott:** Danielle Mitchell: ext. 23000  
**Furgeson:** Anne Marie Johnson: ext. 23100  
**Gonsalves:** Sherry Becker: ext. 23200  
**Hawaiian:** Angeles Mariano: ext. 23300  
**Juarez:** Michelle Joyce: ext. 23400  
**Kennedy:** Kerry Berg: ext. 23500  
**Leal:** Judith Lee: ext. 23600  
**Melbourne:** Eveline Huh: ext. 23700  
**Niemes:** Anna Champlin: ext. 23800  
**Nixon:** Bebe Martin-Smith: ext. 23900  
**Palms:** Ellen Flaming: ext. 24000  
**Stowers:** Cathy Green: ext. 24100  
**Willow:** Pauline Shiraki: ext. 24200  
**Wittman:** Pat King: ext. 24300  
**Secondary:**  
**Carmenita:** Jamie Alihassan: ext. 24400  
**Fedde:** Carol Castro: 24600  
**Haskell:** Arlene Hoksbergen: ext. 24700  
**Ross:** Julie Gray: ext. 24500  
**Tetzlaff:** Lisa Sollecito: ext. 24800  
**Artesia:** Tom Woodard: ext. 21600  
**Cerritos:** Wade Varieur: ext. 21800  
**Gahr:** Maggie Comisky: ext. 22000  
**Tracy:** Gail Helm: ext. 22213  
**Whitney:** Jenny Verrett ext. 22302

# ABC Unified School District Gifted and Talented Education



## G.A.T.E

### GATE OFFICE

**ABC Unified School District**  
16700 Norwalk Boulevard  
Cerritos, California 90703

### Director Special Projects & Services

Mike McCoy

### District Program Specialist

RoseEllen Shea

### G.A.T.E. Vision Statement

“The ABC Unified School District strives to provide, in partnership with parents and the community, an appropriately challenging G.A.T.E. educational program which encourages students to reach their full potential within a supportive academic environment, promoting complex levels of thinking while encouraging self-discipline, responsibility, and ethical values.”