

Instruction

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

The Board of Trustees believes that all students deserve an education that challenges them to meet their fullest potential. The Board shall provide gifted and talented students in grades K-12 opportunities for learning commensurate with their particular abilities and talents. The Board also values and supports training for parents regarding the needs of their gifted students.

The Board shall approve a district plan for gifted and talented education (GATE) which meets criteria established by the State Board of Education for program approval.

The district's program shall be designed to provide articulated learning experiences across subjects and grade levels and shall be aligned with and extend the state academic content standards and curriculum frameworks.

Instructional Components

The district's GATE program may include special day classes, part-time groupings, and cluster groupings which shall be planned and organized as an integrated, differentiated learning experience within the regular school day. This program may be augmented or supplemented with other differentiated activities related to the core curriculum using such strategies as independent study, acceleration, postsecondary education, and enrichment. (Education Code 52206; 5 CCR 3840)

GATE students may regularly participate, on a planned basis, in special counseling or instructional activity during or outside of the regular school day in order to benefit from additional educational opportunities not provided in the regular classroom. (5 CCR 3840)

In addition, the district may provide specialized services designed to assist underachieving, linguistically diverse, culturally diverse, and/or economically disadvantaged GATE students to achieve at levels commensurate with their abilities. (5 CCR 3840)

The district's GATE program shall include an academic component and, as appropriate, instruction in basic skills for each student. (Education Code 52206)

The district's program shall support the social and emotional development of GATE students in order to increase responsibility, self-awareness, and social awareness and adjustment.

Staff development shall be provided to support teachers of GATE students in understanding the unique learning styles and abilities of these students and in developing appropriate instructional strategies.

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM (continued)

Advisory Committee

The Superintendent or designee shall appoint an advisory committee to support the needs of the GATE program and to assist in program planning, implementation, and evaluation. The committee shall include the district's program coordinator, certificated staff, parents/guardians of GATE students, community members, and students as appropriate.

Program Evaluation

The Board shall annually review the progress of students enrolled in the district's GATE program and administration of the program using methods identified in the district's GATE plan, and may require modifications in the program as indicated by the results of this review. (5 CCR 3831)

- (cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)
- (cf. 0420.1 - School-Based Program Coordination)
- (cf. 6000 - Concepts and Roles)
- (cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
- (cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education)
- (cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)
- (cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)
- (cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)
- (cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)
- (cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)
- (cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)
- (cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)
- (cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)
- (cf. 6158 - Independent Study)
- (cf. 6172.1 - Concurrent Enrollment in College Classes)
- (cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)
- (cf. 6177 - Summer School)
- (cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
- (cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
- (cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)
- (cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
- (cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
- (cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)
- (cf. 0500 - Accountability)
- (cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)
- (cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)
- (cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
- (cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

37223 Weekend classes for mentally gifted minors
41500-41573 Categorical education block grants
48800-48802 Enrollment of gifted students in community college
51740 Instruction by correspondence
51745-51749.3 Independent study programs
52200-52212 Gifted and talented education program
52800-52887 School-Based Program Coordination
64000 Categorical programs included in consolidated application
64001 Single plan for student achievement, consolidated application programs
76000-76002 Enrollment in community college

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

1633 Instruction by correspondence
3820-3870 Gifted and talented education program

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR THE GIFTED PUBLICATIONS

GATE Standards Workbook: A Guide to Design, Improve and Assess Gifted Programs, 2005
Meeting the Standards: A Guide to Developing Services for Gifted Students, 2002

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Gifted and Talented Education Program Resource Guide, rev. 2005
Recommended Standards for Programs for Gifted and Talented Students, rev. 2005

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
California Association for the Gifted: <http://www.cagifted.org>
California Department of Education, Gifted and Talented Education:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/gt>
Council for Exceptional Children, The Association for the Gifted (CEC-TAG):
<http://www.cectag.org>
National Association for Gifted Children: <http://www.nagc.org>

Instruction

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

Definitions

A **gifted and talented student** is a student enrolled in a public school who is identified as possessing demonstrated or potential abilities that give evidence of high performance capability in categories selected by the Governing Board. (Education Code 52201)

A **highly gifted student** is one who has achieved a measured intelligence quotient of 150 or more points on an assessment of intelligence administered by qualified personnel or has demonstrated extraordinary aptitude and achievement in language arts, mathematics, science, or other academic subjects, as evaluated and confirmed by both the student's teacher and principal. Highly gifted students shall generally constitute not more than one percent of the student population. (Education Code 52201)

A **special day class** for gifted and talented students consists of one or more classes totaling a minimum school day where each class: (5 CCR 3840)

1. Is composed of students identified as gifted and talented
2. Is designed to meet the specific academic needs of gifted and talented students for enriched or advanced instruction and is appropriately differentiated from other classes in the same subjects at the school
3. Is taught by a teacher who has specific preparation, experience, personal attributes, and competencies in the teaching of gifted children

A **part-time grouping** is one in which students attend classes or seminars that are organized to provide advanced or enriched subject matter for a part of the school day and those classes are composed of identified gifted and talented students. (5 CCR 3840)

A **cluster grouping** is one in which students are grouped within a regular classroom setting and receive appropriately differentiated activities from the regular classroom teacher. (5 CCR 3840)

Independent study provides additional instructional opportunities supervised by a certificated district employee through special tutors or mentors or through enrollment in correspondence courses specified in Education Code 51740 and 5 CCR 1633. (5 CCR 3840)

Acceleration means that students are placed in grades or classes more advanced than those of their chronological age group and are provided special counseling and/or instruction outside the regular classroom in order to facilitate their advanced work. (5 CCR 3840)

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM (continued)

Postsecondary education opportunities offer students the opportunity to attend classes conducted by a college or community college or to participate in Advanced Placement programs. (5 CCR 3840)

Enrichment activities are supplemental educational activities that augment students' regular educational programs in their regular classrooms. Students use advanced materials and/or receive special opportunities from persons other than the regular classroom teacher. (5 CCR 3840)

Program Coordinator

The Superintendent or designee shall appoint a district coordinator for the gifted and talented education (GATE) program who has demonstrated experience and knowledge in gifted education and/or has opportunities to gain or continue such experience and knowledge.

Responsibilities of the district's GATE coordinator shall include program development and implementation, identification procedures, fiscal management, and the collection of auditable records for evaluation. (Education Code 52212)

The Superintendent or designee also may appoint a GATE coordinator at each school site who shall be responsible for implementation of program services at that school site.

Program Plan

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a written plan which describes the differentiated curricula for the program and the methods used to examine the appropriateness of participating students' total educational experience. The plan shall include the components specified in 5 CCR 3831. (5 CCR 3831)

Whenever a school's GATE program is incorporated into School-Based Program Coordination, its school site council shall address the needs of GATE students within the school's single plan for student achievement. (Education Code 52853, 64001)

Identification of Gifted and Talented Students

The Superintendent or designee shall design methods to seek out and identify gifted and talented students from varying linguistic, economic, and cultural backgrounds whose extraordinary capacities require special services and programs. (5 CCR 3820)

Students may be recommended for the GATE program by administrators, teachers, counselors, other staff, or parents/guardians. Parent/guardian consent shall be obtained before administering any assessments for the sole purpose of identifying students for this program.

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM (continued)

Students shall be selected for the program based on their demonstrated or potential ability for high performance in categories identified by the Board, as evidenced by any of the following indicators: (5 CCR 3823)

1. School, class, and individual student records
2. Individual tests, including summary and evaluation by a credentialed school psychologist
3. Group tests
4. Interviews and questionnaires of teachers, parents/guardians, and others
5. Student products
6. Opinions of professional persons

Final determination of a student's eligibility shall be made by the Superintendent or designee. (5 CCR 3824)

The Superintendent or designee shall base his/her decision upon the evaluation of pertinent evidence by the principal or designee, a classroom teacher familiar with the student's work, and, when appropriate, a credentialed school psychologist. An individual recognized as an expert in the gifted and talented category under consideration, and/or an individual who has in-depth understanding of the student's linguistic or cultural group, shall participate in the evaluation of the evidence unless there is no doubt as to the student's eligibility. These persons may review screening, identification, and placement data in serial order and shall be required to meet only as necessary to resolve any differences in assessment and recommendations. (5 CCR 3824)

In reviewing evidence of a student's abilities, the Superintendent or designee also shall consider the economic, linguistic, and cultural characteristics of the student's background and, when appropriate, studies of the factors contributing to the student's underachievement, including handicapping or disadvantaged conditions. (5 CCR 3823)

Prior to a student's participation in the program, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain written consent from the student's parent/guardian. (5 CCR 3831)

If the Superintendent or designee determines that a student is not eligible, the student's parent/guardian may appeal the decision. The Superintendent or designee may use a committee, including the district's GATE coordinator and certificated personnel, to review the student's evidence and determine whether the initial identification decision should be reversed.

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall consider identifying for the district's GATE program any student who has transferred from another district in which he/she was identified as a GATE student. (Education Code 52202; 5 CCR 3831)

Because students who do not initially meet district criteria for the GATE program may become eligible at a later grade level, the district may re-examine student eligibility whenever the district receives a referral through the process noted above or the Superintendent or designee determines it to be in the student's best interest.

Once identified as a GATE student, a student shall remain eligible even though services provided to the student may change.

- (cf. 6158 - Independent Study)
- (cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)
- (cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)
- (cf. 6172.1 - Concurrent Enrollment in College Classes)
- (cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
- (cf. 4331 - Staff Development)
- (cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)
- (cf. 0420.1 - School-Based Program Coordination)
- (cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
- (cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)
- (cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
- (cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
- (cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

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