



Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)

Pacific Grove Unified School District

GATE Identification in Pacific Grove Unified School District:

The Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program uses multiple criteria to identify those 4th and 5th grade students who might benefit from extended academic services. Each student receives rating of 0-4 points across multiple categories. These categories include: scores on The Naglieri*; SBAC scores in both Mathematics and English Language Arts; socio-economic, special education, and ELL status; and teacher input re: classroom performance and behavior. A student's total points determine whether or not a student qualifies for GATE services. No one factor typically determines the outcome, and each student's complete application is reviewed by 3 curriculum specialists before final qualification is determined.

Students who transfer into PGUSD with a prior GATE qualification are added to the class. All 3rd grade students, and all incoming 4/5th grade students with no history of GATE evaluation are assessed.

**The Naglieri is a well-respected identification tool for Gifted and Talented students that accounts for the impact linguistic and cultural factors may have on verbal testing outcomes.*

GATE Qualification:

At the 4th and 5th grade levels, we take the top 20-30% of scores, and offer 18 weeks of after-school enrichment to each grade level. In an effort to keep the class sizes small, we limit the classes to approximately 20 students at each grade, focusing on those students who show the most need.

PGUSD casts a very wide net in our GATE identification. While we identify students in the top 20-30% of each grade level, many national GATE organizations recognize only the top 10%. In PGUSD, we do our best to both include as many students as possible in these grant-funded enrichment classes, while also keeping the classes small enough to be impactful.

GATE Services:

The PGUSD GATE classes have dual purpose. First, after-school GATE enrichment classes are meant to serve as extensions of the academic instruction students receive during the school day. Building upon 21st Century Skills (the Four C's: Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Critical Thinking), after-school (and some lunchtime) GATE classes can include in-depth studies of a wide array of topics, ranging from computer programming, to advanced music theory, to civic action and contemporary issues, to robotics and underwater rovers, all building on the interests and passions of the PGUSD GATE learning community.

Gifted and Talented classes also allow instructors to address some of the behavioral and psychological issues that being a gifted student can entail. More specifically, our gifted students may feel immense anxiety about global and ethical issues that are outside of their control; have trouble fitting in with their peers and feel isolated and misunderstood; and/or may behave precociously, getting themselves into trouble with peers and adults. GATE helps students find ways to assuage their global concerns, to build a sense of community and connectedness with peers, and to practice using healthy and appropriate communication when they feel anxious, confused, or frustrated.

Continuum of Services:

Official GATE identification is only applicable to GATE participation during elementary school. At both the middle school and high school levels, we allow students to self-select GATE class enrollment, regardless of any official or prior GATE identification. If a student is not identified in grades 4 or 5, he or she can *choose* to participate in grades 6-12. This is in-line with guidance from the California Department of Education on best practices for GATE services at secondary levels, and empowers our older students to determine for themselves the ways in which they would like to be academically challenged.