



# REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Office of Educational Services

Room 7

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### Gifted and Talented Program

#### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**1. What is GATE?**

*The State of California provides program and funding support to local school districts to establish Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) programs. Local GATE programs are to develop and provide unique opportunities for pupils in California public elementary and secondary schools that have been identified as gifted and talented, including those who are high-achieving and underachieving.*

**2. How does my child qualify for GATE program participation?**

*GATE students are identified in grade 3 by participating in either the Otis Lennon School Ability Test assessment or the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test assessment and scoring at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile.*

**3. Why is state testing no longer being used as identification for the GATE program?**

*Upon re-evaluation of program eligibility criteria, and due to the suspension of the California Standards Test (CST), RBUSD will no longer be using assessments that measure knowledge derived from classroom instruction. In our interest to identify gifted students, RBUSD will be using assessments that measure a student's natural cognitive ability. These are not assessments in which students can prepare for ahead of time. Students should approach the assessment with no inhibitions.*

**4. What is the OLSAT?**

*The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) is a test of abstract thinking and reasoning ability of children. The OLSAT is group-administered, multiple choice, taken with pencil and paper, measures verbal, quantitative, and spatial reasoning ability. The test yields verbal and nonverbal scores, from which a total score is derived, called a School Ability Index (SAI).*

**5. What is the NNAT?**

*The Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT) is a nonverbal measure of general ability. Like all nonverbal ability tests, the NNAT is intended to assess cognitive ability independently of linguistic and cultural background. This assessment is typically used with students whose first language was something other than English.*

**6. When can my child take the OLSAT/NNAT?**

*The OLSAT/NNAT assessment window is in April of each school year.. Each school site will have a designated day during this week to administer the assessments.*

**7. Can I choose to not have my child assessed?**

*Yes, all third grade parents will have the option to have their child opt-out of OLSAT/NNAT testing.*

**8. My child has an IEP, can they still participate in the assessments?**

*Yes.*

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9. **My child has a 504 plan, can they still participate in the assessment?**

*Yes.*

10. **My child is an English Language Learner, can they still participate in the assessment?**

*Yes.*

11. **What happens after the OLSAT/NNAT assessment?**

*You will be notified of your child's assessment results in June prior to the school year ending. You will receive a copy of the OLSAT/NNAT Student Score Reports for your records and notification of GATE eligibility.*

12. **If my child is in GATE, will they automatically be enrolled in advanced courses in middle and high school?**

*No, it is important to note that while GATE participation is one of the criteria that could potentially identify secondary students in advanced courses, it is not the only or most important criteria. Participation in GATE does not automatically guarantee that secondary students will be identified for honors/AP courses, and students not participating in GATE may still participate in honors/AP courses.*

13. **Can my 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader take the OLSAT/NNAT?**

*For the 2015-16 school year, 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade students who have not been assessed, were assessed in the 2014-15 school year and scored between the 90<sup>th</sup> and 94<sup>th</sup> percentile, and students new to RBUSD can participate in OLSAT/NNAT testing in April 2016 upon parent request.*

14. **If I feel my child is gifted at an age younger than 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, can I recommend that they be tested?**

*No, students are only eligible in the spring semester of their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade year.*

15. **Are there any exceptions made to GATE identification criteria?**

*Yes, 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are new to the Redondo Beach Unified School District and have not been previously GATE identified may participate in OLSAT/NNAT testing upon parent request.*

16. **Who can I contact with questions about GATE?**

*Each of our K-8 school sites has a GATE Site Specialist, a current classroom teacher, who oversees all activities related to the GATE program at his/her school site. A list of current GATE Site Specialist is located at: <http://www.rbusd.org/gate>.*