The Culver City Unified School District recognizes the needs of students with exceptional abilities through the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program. The CCUSD GATE Program both identifies students and provides them with learning opportunities beyond the regular school program. The purpose of the CCUSD GATE Program is to identify our students with exceptional abilities well beyond their peer group, and determine how we can best provide differentiated learning experiences for them. GATE identification goes well beyond high achievement.

**Program Goal**

The Culver City Unified School District GATE Program strives to implement high quality differentiated opportunities for learning that meet the needs of GATE students’ talents.

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Features of the Program

Grades K-2
Although students in these grades are not identified as GATE, all students are provided with instruction tailored to meet their individual needs. Students who demonstrate signs of giftedness receive appropriate differentiated instruction.

Grades 3-5
GATE identified students are clustered whenever possible in specific classrooms. They receive differentiated instruction based on their identified instructional needs.

Grades 6-8
Students are provided the opportunity to participate in the Scholars Program in English Language Arts and in accelerated pathways in mathematics. GATE and high achieving students may also participate in enrichment activities (both during and outside of the school day) that give students the opportunity to extend the core curriculum. Pathways are currently being developed to allow the ready students the opportunity to take high school courses during their 8th grade year in math (2014-2015 school year), foreign language, and science (2015-2016 school year).

Grades 9-12
Honors and Advanced Placement courses are offered in all areas of the curriculum at all grade levels, including mathematics, science, language arts, social science, foreign languages, and studio art. Students may also take advantage of post-secondary education opportunities by enrolling concurrently in college courses.

Staffing and Professional Growth

A goal of the district is to assist teachers, through ongoing professional growth opportunities, in differentiating instruction to meet the varied needs of all students.
Program Identification

With the transition to the Common Core Standards, the state is replacing the California Standards Test (CST) with a new assessment system. This has led to the need for CCUSD to re-evaluate the criteria for GATE eligibility. CCUSD students will be eligible for GATE by performing at or above the 95th percentile on the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT). Beginning in May, all third grade students will have the opportunity to participate in the NNAT assessment. Third grade parents will be notified as we get closer to the May assessment and will have the opportunity to opt-out of testing.

Nomination Procedure for Fourth-Eighth Grade Students

CCUSD provides students with the opportunity to test for GATE one additional time throughout grades four through eight with teacher and/or parent recommendation. Students may choose to re-take the NNAT or may take the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT).

Students new to the district, who were identified as GATE, will provide information to the school on how they were identified. Students that were identified similarly to the CCUSD identification process will be granted GATE status. Students without similar criteria will be given the opportunity to take one of the two test options.

Characteristics of GATE Students

A gifted student could possess any number of the following characteristics:

- Is comfortable with abstract thinking.
- Is curious; asks many questions.
- May become absorbed in activities and thoughts.
- May engage in self-initiated activities independently.
- May see problems and issues from multiple perspectives.
- May demonstrate leadership qualities.
- May have highly developed sense of humor for peer group.
- Prefers flexibility to routine.
- Prefers complex and challenging tasks.
- Catches on quickly but may resist doing routine work.