



El Monte City  
School District  
GATE Program

*“Striving for  
Excellence”*

For more information  
about the  
GATE Program  
contact:

Oscar Marquez  
omarquez@emcsd.org  
Student Support Services  
(626) 453-3760

Chantal Cravens  
ccravens@emcsd.org  
GATE Program Specialist  
(626) 575-2331



El Monte City  
School District  
G.A.T.E. Program

Parent  
Handbook

**Purpose:**

Meeting the needs of gifted learners and helping them to develop their unique talents.

**Objectives:**

Encourage peer interaction, differentiate the curriculum, and provide for advanced and complex learning.

## G.A.T.E. Program

GATE students in grades K-6 receive differentiated core curriculum during the regular instructional period at their school sites. This is done through cluster grouping and re-grouping for ability and occurs throughout the school year. Additionally, they may participate in one of the four GATE Seminars throughout the year, which is at Wilkerson school and serves students in grades 3-6.



The 7 and 8th grade GATE students receive differentiated instruction at their regular school sites through a variety of honors classes, Summer Academy, Saturday Seminars, GATE after school clubs, the U.C. Irvine Academic Talent Search which includes taking the PSAT exam in the Spring .

Additionally, our GATE specialist visits each middle school throughout the year and conducts student seminars with our 7-8th grade students.

## K-2 Watch List Program:

Teachers of students in grades K-2 are encouraged to look for bright and capable children in their classrooms for referral to our K-2 Watch list for GATE.

The teacher completes an academic plan for these students that challenges them and begins to compile a portfolio which is to be submitted to the site psychologist in March of the student's second grade year for formal admission in grade 3.

In addition to meeting with these teachers, the GATE program specialist supplies materials and strategies to modify the curriculum for these students. Some strategies may be to have the child working with advanced materials, or attending reading or math in a higher grade level classroom.

## Characteristics of Gifted and Talented Children

( May be seen as negative)

*Gifted and Talented Children may:*

- Become bored and frustrated
- Dislike repetition
- Receive negative attitudes to smartness
- Dominate and interrupt conversations
- Act manipulative
- Need less sleep
- “Mimic” hyperactivity, but is not hyperactive
- Disrupt class routine
- Be perceived as stubborn or uncooperative
- Be perceived as immature
- Be vulnerable to criticism
- Feel frustrated, angry or depressed
- Set unrealistic goals
- Be seen as weird
- Feel stifled by lack of creative opportunities



# Characteristics of Gifted and Talented Children

*Gifted and Talented Children may:*

- Learn quickly and easily.
- Have the ability to reason critically and in abstractly.
- See relationships between ideas and events.
- Be verbally proficient.
- Have a high energy level.
- Be extremely persistent.
- Concentrate on tasks of high interest for extended periods of time.
- Be highly sensitive
- Be idealistic
- Aim for perfection
- Exhibit independence
- Possess unusual imagination



## Differentiation:

Differentiation is a teaching strategy in which a teacher uses the core curriculum (State Content Standards) and modifies learning experiences for learners of varying abilities.

Some differentiation strategies include:

- Curriculum Compacting
- Tiered Assignments
- Acceleration
- Independent Study

**Curriculum Compacting** is a strategy where teachers use pre-testing to find out where students are entering the learning unit/experience. The teacher modifies the pace, the content or even the subject matter depending on the level of the learner. Advanced students may work through the chapters/materials at a quicker pace, go further into depth on a topic through an independent study project, or may work on a project in a different subject during this time.

**Tiered assignments** is when teachers create different activities to meet the needs of several learning groups during a unit. For example: during a math unit on telling time, group 1 may be working on telling time to the minute, group 2 may be working on telling time to the nearest 5 minutes, and group 3 may be working on telling time to the nearest quarter hour.

**Acceleration** is moving through the material at a quicker pace.

**Independent study** allows an individual student to set learning goals with the teacher, research and create a product on a subject agreed upon with the teacher.



## Identification:

There are numerous ways in which a student can qualify for the GATE program. El Monte City School District is continuously researching alternative identification methods to identify GATE students from varying cultural and economic backgrounds including English language learners and disadvantaged students.

Psychologists and other members of the identification team receive staff development to apprise them of current research and new methods of alternative assessment.

The GATE program uses for main eligibility criteria:

- Specific Academic Talent
- High Achievement
- Intellectual Ability
- Situational Placement (which includes artistic and leadership ability)

We use data from:

- California Standards tests
- report card data
- self-nomination
- peer nomination
- parent recommendation
- teacher observation
- Intelligence tests

Some methods require the submittal of a portfolio that give evidence to a special talent or ability.

The GATE Identification Toolkit can be found at our district website:

[www.emcsd.org](http://www.emcsd.org)



## Parent Participation:

Parents are encouraged to participate in the GATE program in the following ways:

- Attend parent meetings
- Attend Open House events
- Attend local and state GATE conferences
- Volunteer in GATE classrooms
- Read the GATE Parent News: Parenting the Gifted
- Visit websites online such as:
  - [www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org)
  - [www.cagifted.org](http://www.cagifted.org)
  - [www.sengifted.org](http://www.sengifted.org)



## Glossary:

**IQ Test:** A test of logical thinking and problem solving that measures the thinking ability of the person. The score is a comparison of the mental age and the actual age of the person.