



IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
APAAS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How can I obtain more information about the program?

[Written Summary of APAAS application process](#)

2. How do I apply?

Complete the online application available on this website. Online applications for the 2020-2021 APAAS program will open on February 14, 2020 and close on March 31, 2020. Please note, no late applications will be accepted.

3. Are there minimum requirements to apply for APAAS

Any student who lives within our district boundaries at the time of application may apply. [My School Locator](#).

4. What criteria are used for the APAAS selection process?

Criteria considered in the application process include achievement, ability and creativity components. APAAS application criteria are compiled and compared. Program placement is offered to the highest scoring students in order of score until all classes are filled. Requests for information regarding your child's application score from the Spring 2020 application process will be made available through a form on our website in mid-June.

5. What information is considered in the application process?

3rd Grade:

- Naglieri Non Verbal Ability Test
- STAR Reading test scores
- STAR Math test scores
- Writing sample

4th & 5th Grade:

- STAR Reading test scores
- STAR Math test scores
- CAASPP scores
- 1st and 2nd trimester grades

6. Will I be able to apply to all of the six APAAS schools?

Students will only be able to apply to schools within their geographical area based on their home address. Please enter your home address into the Irvine Unified School District Boundaries [My School Locator](#) to see which APAAS sites are within your geographical boundaries.

Brywood, Deerfield, Eastshore, and Westpark are open to all applicants.

Santiago Hills is only open to applicants currently residing within the school attendance boundaries of: Beacon Park, Brywood, Cadence Park, Canyon View, College Park, Cypress Village, Eastwood, Greentree, Loma Ridge, Northwood, Portola Springs, Santiago Hills, Stonegate and Woodbury.

Turtle Rock is only open to applicants currently residing within the school attendance boundaries of: Alderwood, Bonita Canyon, Culverdale, Deerfield, Eastshore, Meadow Park, Oak Creek, Plaza Vista, Springbrook, Stone Creek, Turtle Rock, University Park, Vista Verde and Westpark.

7. Will my student be placed in his/her first choice school?

Each APAAS class is limited to 33 students. Although we do our best to place students in their first choice school, due to multiple factors this is not always possible.

8. May I make any changes to the application once submitted?

No, we do not accept any changes once the application has been submitted.

9. What number of applicants are admitted?

For the 2019-20 school year, we received almost 870 applications. More than 685 applications were received for 198 openings in 4th grade, 110 applications for 3 openings in 5th grade, and 70 applications for 5 openings in 6th grade.

10. With so many applicants, why doesn't IUSD open another APAAS school?

IUSD has invested much into its GATE-cluster program in order to provide a highly challenging, academic program for all gifted and advanced learners. With a large population of high-performing students, IUSD is committed to fostering a rigorous academic program within each of its schools. The GATE-cluster classroom at each school site incorporates best practices for gifted and advanced learners. APAAS is a specialized academic program that not all students would thrive in. APAAS' design is centered on serving students who have a preference for learning via unique instructional methods. When asked to demonstrate content understanding, these students often prefer to create their own approach. APAAS incorporates options into the curriculum and instruction in order to foster a unique academic environment.

11. Which schools have APAAS classes?

Brywood, Deerfield, Eastshore, Santiago Hills, Turtle Rock, and Westpark* (year round). * *Westpark starts on July 15, 2020. Acceptance into this school is a commitment to begin school on July 15, 2020.*

12. What is the difference between APAAS and GATE?

Both GATE and APAAS classes provide curriculum instruction aligned to grade level common core standards. The GATE program is organized with gifted students placed together in a cluster group of like-minded individuals in a general education classroom. Specialized training with differentiated instruction and meeting the needs of the gifted learner has been provided for the teacher. All students identified as gifted may take part in the GATE program.

The APAAS, Alternative Program for Academically Advanced Students, is an elementary school program option for students in 4th through 6th grades. The program is designed to meet the needs of a unique population of highly intellectual learners who consistently prefer creative outlets to demonstrate their understanding of content. Students successful in the program are individuals who have an innately high level of curiosity, think outside the parameters of conventional ideas, and are motivated by complex, open-ended options. The program is constructed for students who independently handle high-level assignments, collaborate with others, and have a strong foundation in math and reading, and can express ideas in writing. A student does not need to be GATE-identified to participate in APAAS.

13. How will I know if APAAS is the right placement for my child?

Students who are successful in the APAAS program have a high level of curiosity, work independently, thrive on open-ended options, are intrinsically motivated to learn, and are comfortable with expressing their ideas in writing.

14. How well do students adjust to moving to a new school in order to attend an APAAS program?

This depends on many factors including maturation, temperament, social/emotional elements, and the child's desire to be in this type of academic environment. Most students make the adjustment over a period of a few weeks.

15. My child is involved in several extracurricular activities. Will the added rigor of this program be too much for him /her?

Many successful APAAS students participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, music, and other programs. Most people, in general, benefit from unscheduled time during the day and/or week in order to maintain a healthy attitude and perform at their best.

16. Once admitted to the program, may I transfer to another APAAS school site?

In spring, parents of current participating APAAS students will be asked to complete a Continuation Form. On this form, parents may request a transfer to another APAAS school site. However, students must live in the correct geographical boundaries at the time the Continuation Form is submitted. If there is space available, transfer requests will be honored prior to placing new applicants in the Program.

17. Is transportation provided?

No, parents are responsible for student transportation to and from all GATE and APAAS school locations.

18. Once placed in APAAS, must I reapply each year?

No, once a student is participating in the APAAS program, students continue through 6th grade. If an APAAS student is struggling socially or academically, we will work with the parents to review whether placement in the Program continues to be in the best interest of the student.

19. When and how will I be notified if my student has been selected for APAAS?

Students and parents are notified via email of placement by the end of May. Parents must confirm acceptance of placement via email to finalize the placement.

20. If a student does not get placed in APAAS, is there any chance to be placed after May?

If a program spot becomes available after the initial placement, placement will continue through the first six weeks of the school year. Program offers will be made to the highest scoring students in order of score.

21. What if I am an Irvine resident, but my child attends private school?

Irvine residents not currently enrolled in IUSD may submit an application form and provide their private school information. Proof of residency will be required at time of application. The GATE Department may contact the private school to gather additional necessary information. We may also ask for alternative information for all students not currently enrolled in IUSD.

IUSD Website: <https://iusd.org/about/departments/education-services/student-support-services/gifted-and-advanced-learners>