IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

GATE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How are students placed in the GATE program?

IUSD conducts an annual Multiple Criteria Measure screening process for ALL students in 3rd through 6th grades to identify students for placement in the GATE program. The process takes place automatically for students within the school day and over the course of the school year. Program eligibility is based on the student's performance across multiple criteria measures (MCM). To qualify, students must score within the top 20% of his/her grade level. Once a student is placed in the program, the placement remains valid throughout middle school.

2. When will students be evaluated via the Multiple Criteria Measure?

Criteria measures will be gathered throughout the school year. GATE placement is completed at the end of the school year, and parents are notified via email of GATE placement by mid-June.

3. What happens if my child is absent on the day of one of the MCM assessments?

Your child's classroom teacher will provide a make-up testing session for your child.

4. What information is reviewed for the 3rd Grade Multiple Criteria Measure (MCM) process?

The MCM process includes the criteria measures below. All components are completed at school and will be gathered throughout the year.

Ability Measure

Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT): This non-verbal, culturally neutral test assesses general ability. It is a multiple choice test that takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The NNAT assessment will be administered by your child's teacher and completed on computers or tablets.

IUSD also offers students an optional, fee-based OLSAT assessment in August. When administered by IUSD, it will be considered as one measure of achievement. Students need not take the OLSAT for program eligibility.

Achievement Measures

STAR Reading and Math: These IUSD Universal Assessments are administered to all students three times annually. Fall and Winter scores will be used as criteria measures.

Creativity Measure

Writing Sample: Students respond to a writing prompt. Writing samples are evaluated for use of divergent thought and creative narrative techniques across a 4 point rubric.

5. What information is reviewed for the 4th, 5th and 6th Grade Multiple Criteria Measure (MCM) process?

The MCM process includes the criteria measures below.

Achievement/Ability Measures

First and Second Trimester Grades

IUSD also offers students an optional, fee-based OLSAT assessment in August. When administered by IUSD, it will be considered as one measure of achievement. Students need not take the OLSAT for program eligibility.

English Language Arts

CAASPP ELA Scale score

STAR Reading: This IUSD Universal Assessment is administered to all students three times annually. Fall and Winter scores will be used as criteria measures.

Math

CAASPP Math Scale score

STAR Math: This IUSD Universal Assessment is administered to all students three times annually. Fall and Winter scores will be used as criteria measures.

6. How will IUSD quantify the information for the Multiple Criteria Measure for GATE placement?

Once the data has been collected, the GATE Department works with IUSD's Data Department to review all criteria measure scores and identify the top 20% of each grade level for program placement.

7. Will teachers be able to recommend students for GATE placement?

No. It would be difficult to maintain comparable opinions across a district of IUSD's size. In providing as fair and universal process as possible for each student, a teacher's recommendation would include too much variation for the process.

8. Will the outcome of the GATE screening process be shared with families?

The GATE Department will notify the families of students that qualify for program placement by mid-June and students will be placed in the GATE program the following school year. Requests for information regarding your child's MCM score will be made available through a form on our website in mid-June.

9. Why does IUSD have different program placement criteria than other neighboring school districts?

Each school district in California incorporates its own GATE program placement process. IUSD begins screening students at the end of 3rd grade and the GATE program begins in 4th grade.

10. Is private intelligence testing accepted for GATE placement?

In accordance with national research on best practices for GATE program placement, IUSD does not accept private psychologist's assessments.

11. What is the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test or NNAT?

The NNAT is a non-verbal measure of ability. It measures reasoning and problem solving abilities utilizing a complex set of geometric shapes and designs. Students will determine a pattern formed by a set of shapes organized into groups, then choose an answer that completes the pattern. This multiple choice test takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The NNAT assessment will be administered by your child's teacher and completed on computers or tablets.

12. Why has IUSD added the NNAT to the MCM process?

Research suggests that nonverbal measures, such as the NNAT, are particularly appropriate for identifying gifted children because the nonverbal content assesses different cognitive skills that apply to all children, including those who speak other languages, come from different cultures, and demonstrate varying levels of prior exposure to academic content. As such, the NNAT provides a nationally normed, reliable and culturally fair measure to comprehensively screen and assess our IUSD student population.

13. What is the OLSAT?

The OTIS-LENNON SCHOOL ABILITY TEST (OLSAT) assesses student's verbal, nonverbal, and quantitative abilities. IUSD will continue to offer the OLSAT to current IUSD students as an optional, fee based component of the MCM process. Students in 3rd-6th grades may take the OLSAT one time each year. Students do not need to take the OLSAT to be considered for GATE. OLSAT scores are not used for APAAS placement. The OLSAT is intended to be taken without any preparation. IUSD only offers OLSAT to current IUSD students in July and August.

14. Why does IUSD no longer accept OLSAT as a stand-alone option for GATE placement?

IUSD has implemented a Multiple Criteria Measure aligned with best practices for GATE program placement. OLSAT will continue to be offered; however, it will no longer serve as a stand-alone criteria for placement. For students interested in taking the OLSAT, IUSD will consider the scores as one component of IUSD's Multiple Criteria Measure.

15. How do I prepare my child for the NNAT, STAR, CAASPP, OLSAT and Creativity measures?

Families and students should not prepare for the GATE screening process. Please allow your child to take the assessments with no stress. These are not high-stakes "GATE" tests as they are only one measure being considered within our comprehensive process. Children usually enjoy the assessment activities because they present as puzzles and allow for creative problem solving.

16. What is differentiated instruction?

In the differentiated classroom, GATE teachers assess each student's current knowledge and skill level and make adjustments to instruction and curriculum to meet their individual needs. Students participating in GATE cluster groups receive differentiated instructional opportunities across the grade-level core curriculum. Differentiated instruction is provided within the school day and general education classroom through the use

of flexible groupings, supplemental materials, and varied learning activities. Differentiation is not accomplished by assigning GATE students additional homework or special at-home projects.

17. Once placed in the GATE program, will a student need to be screened each year?
No, once a student is placed in the GATE program, this remains a part of the student's record until graduation. Students will stay in the GATE cluster program through the end of 6th grade. And, all students will have the opportunity to participate in advanced learner programs at the middle and high school levels per each school's program and placement policy. IUSD schools offer a variety of options that can include GATE, Honors, and Advanced Placement courses.

18. We are new to IUSD and my child participated in the GATE program in his/her previous district. Will my child be eligible for GATE in IUSD?
Students transferring from outside IUSD who have participated in their previous district's GATE program, must meet the criteria established for IUSD's GATE program. For more information, view IUSD's Transfer Policy.

19. Can we appeal the GATE screening and placement process?
Parents are not able to appeal the GATE screening and placement process. GATE is not a mandated program in California; therefore, each district develops its own program and criteria. In alignment with the National Association for Gifted Children and California Association for the Gifted, IUSD supports the extensive research on providing multiple measures over time for GATE placement.

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