



Overview of IUSD APAAS Application Process

APAAS Program

The 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, 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. APAAS is offered at six school sites: Brywood, Deerfield, Eastshore, Santiago Hills, Turtle Rock, and Westpark (year-round calendar). For the 2020-21 school year we have also offered APAAS in the IUSD Virtual Academy.

To be considered for APAAS, families who reside within the IUSD attendance boundaries may submit an online application for their student. 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. This placement process is conducted annually in May and students begin participating in the program in 4th grade. Applications for the 2021-22 school year will open in mid-January on [our website](#).

Application Criteria- 3rd Grade

All tests for 3rd applicants will be given in-person at a test center with a maximum of 15 students.

Criteria	Description
	*all criteria are equally weighted in the application process
Naglieri NNAT NAI	This non-verbal, culturally neutral test assesses general ability. It is a nationally normed, multiple choice test that is administered to <u>all</u> students one time in third grade. NAI, Naglieri Ability Index, scores between 90 and 110 are considered to be average. Scores between 111 and 120 are considered high average. Scores between 121 and 130 are considered to be superior. Scores of 131 and above are considered to be very superior
Achievement Test (Reading and Math)	Students will be given a computer-administered, adaptive measure of broad reading and math. It is expected that each section will take 20-30 minutes to complete. We will not be using STAR Renaissance as a criteria for APAAS.
Writing Sample	Students are asked to write a creative story in response to a specific prompt. Writing samples are evaluated by IUSD staff for use of language, divergent thought, and idea development across a 4 point rubric. Samples scoring a 0 provided no written response. The minimum score possible for a response is 2. The maximum score possible is 8.

Application Criteria- 4th-5th Grade

* The program is designed as a 3-year option; therefore, there are limited spaces for 5th and 6th grade students.

Criteria	Description *all criteria are equally weighted in the application process
Grade Point Average (GPA)	The student's grades in the four major content areas (English, Math, Science and Social Science) are translated to a standard 4 point scale and then an average is calculated. 1 st and 2 nd Trimester GPAs are utilized.
STAR Reading Winter OR Spring AND STAR Math Winter OR Spring	STAR is a nationally normed, computer-adaptive subject area test that is administered three times each year to all 1 st – 8 th grade students. Scale scores range from 0 to 1400 and are calculated based on the difficulty of questions presented to a student and the number of correct responses he/she provides. The highest score of the Winter and Spring administrations for each subject area are used as criteria measures.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the difference between APAAS and GATE?
Both GATE and APAAS classes provide instruction aligned to grade level common core standards. The GATE program provides a cluster group of gifted students placed together in a general education classroom. Specialized training with differentiated instruction in meeting the needs of advanced learners has been provided for the teacher.
APAAS is an elementary school program option for students in 4th - 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 in May, 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.
6. 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.