



# **TUSD Gifted & Talented (GATE) Program & Identification**

Fall 2023 - Family Information Session



# » **Agenda**

» **1**

**TUSD GATE  
Program &  
Support**

» **2**

**Myths &  
Characteristics  
of Gifted  
Learners**

» **3**

**Identification  
Process**

» **4**

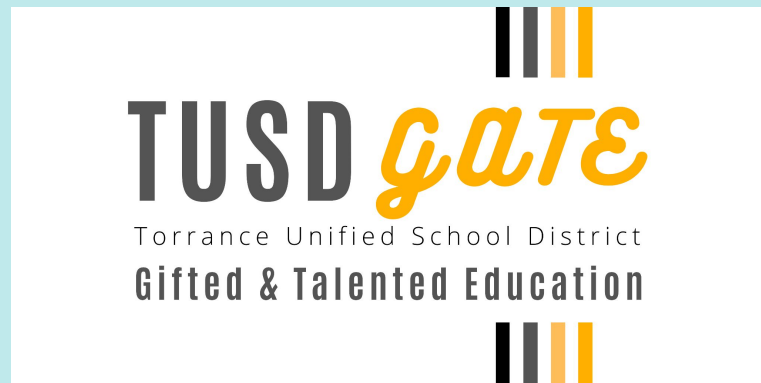
**Additional  
Resources**

# ➤ Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)

The Torrance Unified School District recognizes the needs of students with exceptional abilities.

The purpose of the TUSD GATE Program is to:

- identify students with abilities well beyond grade or age expectations
- support their instructional program by establishing how students can receive differentiated learning experiences within the classroom, opportunities for enrichment, and social-emotional support



# » GATE Support



## Differentiated Instruction

Depth, Complexity, Acceleration, & Novelty in the regular classroom



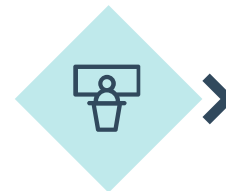
## GATE Clustering

Grades 4-5  
To support differentiation in the regular classroom



## Enrichment

Grades 3-8  
Sessions focus on social-emotional needs of gifted learners through critical/creative thinking activities



## GATE Conference

Spring event for Grade 3-8 GATE students and parents

Note: GATE identification is not a part of course placement at the secondary level (ex: Accelerated Math, AP, Honors, etc.)

# » MYTHS about gifted learners

» Are all the same -  
**all are high achievers who excel in school or in all areas**

» **Social & emotional development is at the same level** as his or her intellectual development

» **Do not need help** - If they are really gifted, they can manage on their own

» **Need to serve as examples** to others and they should always assume extra responsibility or work

» Are **easy to raise**

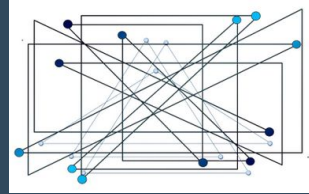
» **Do not have special learning needs**



# » Characteristics of Gifted Learners



Advanced comprehension  
and a **faster pace of  
learning**



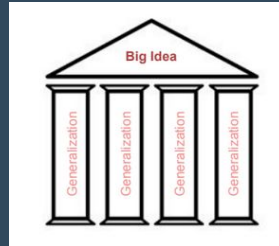
A need for **complexity and  
intensity**



A desire for **depth**



**Originality** of expression



Ability to **generalize and work  
comfortably with abstract ideas**



Ability to **synthesize diverse  
relationships**

# » TUSD GATE Identification Process 2023-2024

## ▶ 3rd Grade:

Universal Screening (Opt-OUT)

- ◆ Universal GATE screening will be administered to all third grade students in the district
- ◆ **No form or application for participation in Grade 3 is necessary**

## ▶ 4th-5th Grade:

Parent Permission (Opt-IN)

- ◆ Eligible students for TUSD GATE screening will receive a notice (i.e. new to TUSD or have only screened once before)
- ◆ **Parent/guardian permission is required for participation (by 10/4/23).**

# » TUSD GATE Identification Process 2023-2024

- ▶ Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3)
  - ◆ 30-minute nonverbal cognitive assessment (48 problems)
  - ◆ Focuses on analytic and problem solving skills rather than specific knowledge
  - ◆ Pictorial directions - no spoken or written language required
  - ◆ Online - using Chromebook
  - ◆ Intended to be taken without any preparation
  - ◆ *Rather than placing pressure on performance and score, please support students and lower testing anxiety by encouraging students to get a good night's rest and to try their best*



# » TUSD GATE Identification Process 2023-2024

## ▶ Results & Notification

- ◆ Results and notification of identification will be mailed home after all district screening has been completed & processed (by February 2024)
- ◆ **Intellectual Category:** 95 Percentile or above qualifies for GATE identification in TUSD
- ◆ **High-Achievement Category:** based on NNAT3 & CAASPP results from 2023-2024 school year (review conducted in summer 2024)
- ◆ Once a student has been identified GATE in TUSD, there is no need for further screening



# Screening Schedule & Forms

2023-2024 GATE Screening Schedule

## **3rd Grade Withdraw form**

(only for families that would like to Opt-OUT a student from universal screening)


## **4th-5th grade Opt-IN permission forms**

(emailed directly to eligible students by Testing Office)

*Deadline for submission of all GATE screening related forms is October 4, 2023.*



# » TUSD GATE Identification Process 2023-2024

- ▶ New to TUSD and GATE in a previous district
    - ◆ Please contact [nakasuji.heather@tUSD.org](mailto:nakasuji.heather@tUSD.org) for a Permission to Request GATE records from previous district for TUSD GATE Office review
    - ◆ Because identification criteria and protocol vary greatly among localities, transfer students who have been identified in other school districts may or may not qualify for GATE identification in TUSD.
- 

# » Discussing GATE screening & results with your child

Some considerations:

- GATE identification is a helpful tool that can show teachers, parents, and students more about how someone learns and some potential social-emotional needs of gifted learners to consider
- GATE identification is not an indicator of a child's ultimate outcome - rather it is an opportunity to determine the best ways to support student success
- A child may be high-performing and extremely capable without being identified as gifted



## » GATE Teacher Leaders

- Support at each school site
- Site-based GATE Enrichment Sessions
- [2023-2024 GATE Teacher Leader roster](#) (also posted on TUSD GATE webpage)
- Michelle Miranda (Testing coordinator), Dee Kumde (GATE Teacher Lead/testing support), Chelsea Williams (GATE Teacher Lead)



## » Anza's GATE Testing

Oct. 24, 2023 -3rd Gr. GATE Testing

November 16, 2023 4th/5th Gr. GATE Testing





# » GATE Resources



**TORRANCE**  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

[TUSD GATE Webpage](#)

**TUSD GATE Resource Teacher**  
**Heather Nakasuji**  
[nakasuji.heather@tUSD.org](mailto:nakasuji.heather@tUSD.org)  
(310) 972-6983



[California Association  
for the Gifted \(CAG\)](#)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
**Gifted Children**

[National Association for  
Gifted Children \(NAGC\)](#)



[Social Emotional Needs  
of the Gifted \(SENG\)](#)



**Thank you**