

PYLUSD GATE Program

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District recognizes that all students need to be provided with an academic program that is challenging and engaging. For highly capable students, the district participates in the State's Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program, which serves students in grades four through twelve. Students who meet the criteria represent the top 5% of students across the nation. State law requires that GATE students receive qualitatively different instruction.

The goals of the program are to:

- Provide a balanced educational experience across all curricular areas.
- Provide students with an academically appropriate and challenging curriculum that provides for complexity, depth, and acceleration.
- Develop organization and study skills.
- Provide educational experiences for students that meet their abilities, needs, learning styles, and interests.
- Give students an opportunity to set goals and develop personal educational plans.
- Nurture each student's social and emotional development.

Criteria for Identification

Elementary students may qualify for the GATE program based on new GATE identification criteria. These criteria include a balance between ability testing, achievement testing, and other factors:

- Students must score a minimum of 3 points on the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) in order to be referred for continued evaluation in the identification process. Students may earn a maximum of 6 points

in this area. Points are earned in three areas on the English CogAT (Verbal, Quantitative, and Non-Verbal) based on the following point structure: 87%ile-93%ile = 1 point; 94%ile-99%ile = 2 points. Points are earned in two areas on the Spanish CogAT (Quantitative and Non-Verbal) based on the following point structure: 87%ile-90%ile = 1 point; 91%ile-95%ile = 2 points; 96%ile-99%ile = 3 points.

- Student performance in math and language on the California Standards Test (CST) in math and either reading or language on the CAT6 is also considered. Students may qualify for a maximum of 6 points in this area. Points accrue based on scaled scores. Test scores from the two most recent years are considered.
- Information is gathered by the classroom teacher documenting the student's proficiency in writing, reading and math. Students may earn a possible 2 points in this area.
- Information about the student's creativity, leadership, and task commitment is sought from the teacher and parent. Students may qualify for a maximum of 2 points in this area.
- Impact factors such as rapid English acquisition and socio-economic status are also considered and students may qualify for a maximum of 2 points in this area.

A district GATE Review Committee examines the information and documentation gathered for each candidate. In order to qualify for GATE, students must have a combined total of 11 points or more, as verified by the GATE Review Committee, from the five areas considered in the GATE identification criteria.

No outside private assessments will be accepted as part of the GATE identification process.

Students in grades 7-12 may qualify for the GATE program based on points earned from a combination of two tests (achievement, ability, or California Standards Test) from the two most recent years. A minimum of three points is required from any one test with a minimum total of ten points required for GATE identification.

Because the State Department of Education gives each district the responsibility of developing its own criteria for its GATE program, qualifications vary from district to district. Parents of students who are identified GATE in another district should contact the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District GATE office at (714) 985-8675 prior to enrolling in the district to discuss the program options.

Elementary Program

Elementary students who are identified as gifted may be served either in their home schools or through magnet programs. In either case, students receive qualitatively different instruction. This may be provided through the enrichment strands of the language arts and mathematics programs, special projects, differentiation of class assignments or accelerated instruction. GATE students who remain in their home schools are grouped in clusters to meet their instructional needs. Students who opt to attend the magnet programs are assigned to classrooms where all students qualify for the GATE program. The magnet programs are at Tynes Elementary (for students from Melrose, Morse, Rio Vista, Ruby Drive, Tynes, and Van Buren), Golden Elementary (for students from Brookhaven, Golden, Lakeview, Linda Vista, Mabel Paine,

Rose Drive, Topaz, Sierra Vista, and Wagner), and Woodsboro Elementary (for students from Bryant Ranch, Fairmont, Glenknoll, Glenview, Travis Ranch, and Woodsboro).

Middle School Program

Each of the five middle schools in the district has a GATE program that serves identified students. Depending on the number of students in the school and the number of students participating in the GATE program, the configuration of the GATE program may vary from school to school. For example, in some schools, students may be grouped within classes. In other schools, classes composed mainly of GATE students may be established. In any case, placement and activities will be appropriate for the student's language arts and mathematics abilities. Middle school students who are identified as gifted may attend their home middle school or the middle school GATE magnet program at Kraemer Middle School. Students who opt to attend Kraemer are provided with GATE-only classes for three of the seven periods of the day. These include language arts, science, and social science. They will be placed in the mathematics class that is appropriate based on district placement tests and teacher recommendation.

High School Program

Each high school serves GATE students through Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes. These courses, which are also open to other high achieving students, are generally offered in language arts, mathematics, science, social science, and foreign language. Students may also apply for acceptance into the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at Valencia High School prior to the beginning of high school. AP and IB programs offer high school students the opportunity to receive college credit for courses taken in high school.

For additional information regarding the GATE program please go to www.gate.pylusd.org or contact:

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE) OFFICE

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Tynes Elementary School

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Woodsboro Elementary School

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Kraemer Middle School

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Valencia High School

Principal: Jim Bell
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Gifted and Talented Education

**Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified
School District
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**Serving students in the communities of
Placentia, Yorba Linda, and parts of
Anaheim, Brea, and Fullerton**