



GIFTED / TALENTED PROGRAMS

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GATE/SAS Coordinator's Update Newsletter

December 2014/January 2015

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We must change the perception that giftedness equates to eminence, achievement, and success, so that gifted education programs are not seen as an elitist perk but an essential special needs program for gifted students. -Dr. Joanna Haase

Gifted/Talented Programs Updates

- The Master Class Institute on Gifted/Talented Education, held on November 1, 2014 at the Pasadena Convention Center, was a huge success! About 1,300 educators, administrators, psychologists, and parents came to learn from some of the most renowned experts in the field of gifted education. Dr. Pedro Noguera moved many audience members to tears with his keynote address, "Equity Through Excellence: Ten Principles and Practices." A huge thank you to the following distinguished attendees: Ramon Cortines, *Superintendent*, Dr. Ruth Perez, *Deputy Superintendent of Instruction*, Gerardo Loera, *Chief Academic Officer*, and Arzie Galvez, *Director, Advanced Learning Options*. We truly value your support!
- Fall Demonstrations and Auditions for Gifted/Talented Identification in the Visual and Performing Arts were held on November 15, 2014 at Sotomayor Learning Academies High School. Thank you to all GATE coordinators who submitted referrals for fall demonstrations and auditions. Results will be available in MiSiS in 4-6 weeks (once scores are tabulated) and parents will be sent notification letters in 6-8 weeks. Thank you to the administration and staff of Sotomayor Learning Academies for hosting this important event. It was a fun and productive day, as well as a great reminder of our amazing LAUSD talent!



Scholarships and Awards

California Association for the Gifted (CAG)

CAG offers or co-sponsors several adult and student scholarships and awards related to gifted education. For more information, log on to www.cagifted.org and click "Educators" then "Awards for Educators and Students."

Arts Evaluators Needed

Gifted/Talented Programs holds demonstrations and auditions in the Visual and Performing Arts twice per year (third Saturday in November and third Saturday in May). Each year, we seek additional LAUSD teachers with strong arts expertise to assist as evaluators. If you have a strong background in visual arts, voice, dance, or theatre and would like to be considered for future auditions/demonstrations, please email Dr. Lucy Hunt at lhunt@lausd.net.

Winter Salary Point Classes

If you or your teachers would like to obtain GATE professional development hours or salary points during your winter break, log on to the Learning Zone for available options. There may still be space available in the following classes to be held on January 8-9, 2015:

- Differentiated Curriculum and Instruction for Gifted Learners and the Common Core Standards (K-12)
- Differentiating Treasures Reading for GATE Learners (K-6)
- How to Use Writing and Data to Create Novel Experiences for Gifted Learners (6-12)

Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Probationary Plan

SAS schools on probationary status were required to submit their SAS 2014-2015 Probationary Status Action Plan by November 14, 2014. If your school still needs to submit this plan, please do so immediately. You may scan/email or fax to the District GATE Coordinator for your Educational Service Center, however, please also send the original with signatures in school mail to Gifted/Talented Programs, Beaudry Building, 25th Floor.

SAVE THE DATE:

WINTER/SPRING COORDINATOR MEETINGS

Can you believe it is already December? As 2015 calendars start to fill up, please "save the date" for the Winter/Spring Meetings for GATE/SAS coordinators.

Coordinator meetings will be held from 3:30 - 5:00 pm, with a general GATE/SAS Parent Meeting and OLSAT-8 Overview for Parents to follow. See [MEM-6112.1, 2014-2015 Gifted/Talented Meetings and Professional Development Calendar](#), for details.

Coordinator meeting attendance is required for Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS). Please select any one of the meeting dates:

Monday, February 2, 2015:
Peary MS (ESC South)

Thursday, February 5, 2015:
Grant HS (ESC North)

Monday, February 9, 2015:
Nightingale MS (ESC East)

Thursday, February 12, 2015:
Loyola Village ES (ESC West)

Thursday, February 19, 2015:
Beaudry Building (Central); registration on the Learning Zone required for this meeting only

If you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact Gifted/Talented Programs at (213) 241-6500.

Finding Support in the Online GATE Community through Gifted Education Blogs

Do you ever feel isolated in your advocacy for gifted students? Do you spend much of your professional and personal time trying to dispel prevalent myths that gifted students are all high achievers or will do well on their own? Do you feel like a broken record with the number of times you have had to explain to others that gifted students can also be English learners, standard English learners, underachievers, behavior problems, students in poverty, and students with special needs? Do you wish there were resources to help you differentiate instruction, talk to educators, students, and parents about giftedness, or discover innovative research-based strategies to support the academic and social-emotional needs of your gifted learners? An online GATE community may provide much-needed support and validation, as well as an outlet for your passion and advocacy.

A few reputable and popular gifted education blogs include:

- <http://blog.prufrock.com>
- http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/unwrapping_the_gifted
- www.giftedguru.com
- www.byrdseed.com
- www.giftedexchange.blogspot.com
- <http://giftedparentingsupport.blogspot.com>
- <http://2enewsletter.blogspot.com>



These blogs may help you avoid "reinventing the wheel" and save valuable instructional planning time. They may also help freshen up lessons or practices that you have relied on for years. Take the new ideas (for example, the Creative Math Warmups from Ian Byrd at www.byrdseed.com or the Tech Tools from Lisa Van Gemert at www.giftedguru.com) and use them as a jumping off point for your own differentiated ideas. Just remember that none of these bloggers or contributors know your students as well as you do -- many of the ideas may need to be modified to meet the specific needs of your students.

*Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed on these websites are solely those of the authors and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of LAUSD Gifted/Talented Programs.

MiSiS GATE Referral Reminders

- GATE coordinators must log on to [EZ Access](#) to apply for the "School GATE Coordinator" user role and be approved by a school-site administrator *before* they can create referrals for assessment on MiSiS.
- The GATE coordinator needs to create the referral for a student *before* the teacher can complete the GATE-Teacher Checklist. The MiSiS Job Aid has been corrected and is posted on <http://achieve.lausd.net/misis>. Teachers log in and select the referred student from the Teacher Roster. Teachers have automatic access to students in their class. The GATE-Teacher Checklist can be completed and then submitted for one student at a time.
- If GATE coordinators wish to enter the Teacher Checklist for their teachers, they should:
 - 1) Create a referral in MiSiS. Assign a teacher to complete the checklist. Save the referral.
 - 2) Ask the teacher to complete the hard copy checklist (form available on Inside LAUSD under E-Library, Templates and Forms, and GATE Referral Forms).
 - 3) Open the referral in MiSiS again. The checklist button will be active and the GATE coordinator will be able to enter the checklist information and save.
- GATE coordinators are encouraged to create their referrals and send in the required printed documents now (or as soon as possible) for any student they will be referring for assessment, including the Intellectual Ability category. Wait time for testing may become significantly longer as the school year progresses. Please do not wait to screen and submit your referrals. All referrals will be "clocked in" once the printed documents have been received by the appropriate office; all referrals are processed in order of date/time stamp.
- In MiSiS, GATE coordinators must mark "Yes" for Consent and enter the date the parent consent was received. Also, please make sure the "Screening Committee Report" is completed.
- If schools are having difficulty creating referrals or accessing the GATE-Teacher Checklist, they may contact the GATE Office at (213) 241-6500 or the MiSiS IT Help Desk at (213) 241-5200 for assistance.