Paso Robles Joint Unified School District
First Grade Universal Screening Frequently Asked Questions

During the month of November, PRJUSD will administer an initial screening to all first-grade students. This screening is not a test to qualify students for the GATE program. The screening will be used for the purpose of finding students who ought to receive a referral and then be tested for GATE. All parents of first-grade students will be sent an opt-out form. In the event parents wish their child to be excluded from the screening process, they must return the completed form to the school office before the date specified in November. Regardless of the screening results, starting December 6th – January 17th, teachers, parents, and administrators can nominate students for GATE testing

What is the purpose of the screening?
The purpose is to establish a pool of students who demonstrate high ability and may qualify for gifted and talented education. The screening will help to ensure that all students who show high potential on this screening receive a referral for GATE. The purpose IS NOT to eliminate anyone from a referral. GATE referrals from teachers, administrators, and parents of 1st – 7th-grade students will be accepted starting in December. Parent nomination forms can be obtained from the school office or on our district website.

What does the screening measure?
The screening is a non-biased measure of general ability relying on reasoning and problem-solving skills rather than word knowledge, mathematics, or reading ability.

Who administers the screening?
The district testing coordinator, along with the classroom teacher, gives the test to the class.

When and where does the screening occur?
The screening is done on the computer and will be given in the classroom during the month of November, during the school day.

Do I need to prepare my child for the screening?
"Business as usual" is the best attitude for this process. No special preparation is necessary for this task.

How long will the screening take?
It is anticipated that the screening will be completed within 30 minutes.

Who will have access to my child's results? The screening results will be housed in the District GATE Department. The information on the screening is confidential and will not be used for purposes other than finding high-potential in students and seeking a GATE referral**.** Parents can obtain their child's screening results starting in January 2023 by sending a signed handwritten request for screening results to:

Paso Robles Joint Unified School District Office - Attn Maggie Tatman
800 Niblick Road
Paso Robles, CA 93446

How does the screening help my child be identified for gifted and talented education?
Parents of students who demonstrate high ability on the screening will be sent a GATE permission to test and evaluate form. At that time a parent may choose to move forward with the process of GATE testing. California Department of Education indicates that students are not to be identified on one factor. Paso Robles Joint Unified School District uses multiple assessments in the identification process depending on the grade and nomination. These assessments can include; scores on academic achievement tests, cognitive tests, teacher recommendations,, parent recommendations, work samples, creativity tests, and other pertinent information.

What if I have questions?
Please contact Maggie Tatman, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, at (805) 769-1000 ext 30303 or mtatman@pasoschools.org if you have any questions.