

Gifted And Talented Education

Brentwood Union School District

Program Overview

GATE Program Vision & Mission

Vision:

Using highly trained teachers, the Brentwood Union School District will nurture gifted students' unique talents and abilities in order to empower critical thinking, emotional well-being, maximum student achievement, creativity, and exploration of individual interests.

Mission:

The Brentwood Union School District will challenge all gifted students to reach their full potential by providing a program that offers stimulating learning activities, critical thinking tasks, social-emotional support, and opportunities to collaborate with others. The gifted program will set high expectations in order to stretch students' academic and emotional well-being.

GATE Program Identification and Qualification Criteria

CogAT Testing:

The Brentwood Union School District uses a Cognitive Abilities test (CogAT) to identify students who qualify for the GATE program. The CogAT measures verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal abilities.

CogAT testing will initially take place in third grade during quarter 3. There will be additional testing during quarter 3 for students new to the district who have a parent request, have been recommended by a teacher who feels that student may qualify, or the student has qualified for GATE in another school district using an assessment other than the CogAT. The CogAT test should not be readministered to a student who has taken it within the last two years.

The CogAT is administered first as a screener. Any student who scores in the 90th percentile or higher is then administered the full battery assessment.

Students must score a 97 or higher in either their age score or grade score on the full battery assessment to be identified as a GATE student. Any 4th-8th grader who qualifies in quarter 3 will begin receiving services in quarter 4. Third graders and visitors will not begin services until the following year.

GATE Pull-Out Program Visitor Qualification Criteria

Some fourth and fifth grade students will be asked to participate in the GATE pull-out program as a **visitor** when space is available at their school site. In order to qualify as a visitor to the GATE program, **students must score at least an 80 or higher in either their age score or grade score on the CogAT full battery assessment (space permitted) or have qualified as GATE in another district and are waiting to take the CogAT assessment.** Visitors will be invited to participate in the pull-out program at their current school site only when space allows, in order to maintain small class sizes.

GATE Program Key Elements and Structure

The district GATE program supports identified students both within the regular classroom (**integrated**) and outside of the regular classroom (**designated**).

The district **integrated program** (within the regular classroom) is focused on:

- Instructional strategies that differentiate instruction through the use of Response to Intervention (RtI) and Multi Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
- Enrichment that ensures continuous academic growth
- Clustering of students and flexibility grouping within the classroom – both heterogeneous and homogeneous
- Advanced level courses and elective offerings in grades 7-8

The district **designated program** (outside of the regular classroom) has the following optional components:

- GATE Pull-out Program: offered to fourth and fifth graders at their current school site once a week for one hour each session during the regular school day. Visitors will be invited if space allows.
- After school GATE class: offered to sixth-eighth grade GATE students after school for approximately a 1 hour session.
- District wide events might include a back to school social, field trips, or events in the evenings connected to academic content.

Supplemental Programs

Each school site may organize supplemental GATE programs, according to their School Site Plan. Such programs may include:

- Before or After School Enrichment Classes
- Participation in Academic Competitions such as Odyssey of the Mind
- Special Field Trips
- Special Assemblies or Guest Speakers

Parent Participation

Parent participation is essential to a quality GATE program. Some ways you can become involved include the following:

- Be familiar with your school's GATE program and coordinator.
- Be involved at your school site with enrichment programs. Help to set up classes, field trips, competitions, and other opportunities for students.
- Attend parent nights/events and complete surveys to give input, ideas, and share skills/talents that could be incorporated into the program.

Contacts

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