

Gifted/Talented Programs

Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and School Support

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GATE/SAS Coordinator's Update

January 2012

Making the simple complicated is commonplace — making the complicated simple, awesomely simple — that's creativity.

Charles Mingus, Jazz Composer

Spring GATE/SAS Coordinator Meetings

Happy New Year! Spring GATE/SAS coordinator and parent meetings will be held from January through March. There are eight options (one per Local District) — please select the date and location that is most convenient for you. All coordinator meetings will be held from 3:30 — 5:00 pm. Topics will include GATE/SAS program and budget updates, professional development, and an OLSAT-8 overview. An informational OLSAT-8 meeting for elementary parents will be held from 5:30 — 6:30 pm and a GATE/SAS parent professional development on the social-emotional needs of gifted children will be held from 6:30 — 7:30 pm. To accommodate parent schedules, three additional OLSAT-8 meetings will be held during the school day (see asterisks below).

The meeting dates/locations are as follows:

- January 30, 2012 — Nobel MS (LD 1)*
- February 9, 2012 — Polytechnic SH (LD 2)
- February 13, 2012 — Arlington Heights ES (LD 3)
- February 16, 2012 — Kim ES (LD 4)*
- February 23, 2012 — Nightingale MS (LD 5)
- February 27, 2012 — Nimitz MS (LD 6)
- March 1, 2012 — 122nd Street ES (LD 7)*
- March 5, 2012 — Taper ES (LD 8)



* There will be additional OLSAT-8 parent meetings on January 30th from 10:00 — 11:00 am and on February 16th and March 1st from 1:00 — 2:00 pm.

For a detailed schedule of GATE/SAS coordinator meetings, log on to www.lausd.net. Click *Professional Development and Coordinators Meetings*. For a printable flyer of parent meetings (in English and Spanish), click *Students and Parents, Parent Involvement, and Parent Meetings*.

All elementary coordinators/administrators who attend a spring coordinator meeting will receive a **FREE** copy (one per school) of *Visual Discrimination: Exploring and Solving Picture Patterns* (while supplies last). This book of reproducible activities will familiarize students who are taking the OLSAT-8 with exploring and solving picture patterns.

2011 City/County GATE Conference: A Huge Success!

Thank you to everyone who attended the City/County GATE Conference on December 17, 2011. **There were over 2,000 participants!** This incredible turnout (on the first day of winter vacation, no less) is a true testament to the dedication of our GATE teachers, administrators, and parent representatives. We hope that the workshops provided inspiration and practical ideas to nurture creativity in the classroom. A special thank you to our District Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. Jaime Aquino. He arrived to attend the conference only to end up working at our busiest registration desk! Thank you!

Looking Ahead: OLSAT-8 Testing

Districtwide testing of all second graders for identification will continue this year. The Otis-Lennon School Abilities Test — 8th Edition (OLSAT-8) will be administered to assess all District second graders for the High Achievement category (students already identified in the Intellectual Ability category or those taking the CAPA will be exempt). Thank you to all administrators and coordinators who provided valuable feedback on assessment dates. We made every effort to accommodate our many District calendars and testing schedules. The selected testing windows are as follows:

Traditional Calendar:

March 14-15, 2012 (Makeup Date: March 21, 2012)

4-Track Calendar (C-Track):

April 11-12, 2012 (Makeup Date: April 18, 2012)

Detailed directions for test administration (including information about materials, scoring, etc.) will be provided at the spring coordinator meetings. As was instructed last year, all OLSAT-8 "Directions for Administration" (DFA) booklets should have been saved for reuse this year. Please take the time to locate these materials before the testing dates to ensure that they are available to teachers during testing.

Identification Tips

Navigating the world of gifted identification can sometimes be tricky — especially for new coordinators. Referral packets are often sent back to schools for incomplete/incorrect documentation — this is frustrating for coordinators, parents, and GATE office staff because it further delays the identification process for our students by adding unnecessary steps.

Here are some quick tips to help make the process easier:

- **Use the "at-a-glance"** to determine which reference guide attachments and supplementary documentation must be included in each packet for the High Achievement/Specific Academic Ability and Intellectual categories. **Packets must include ALL required documentation listed on the "at-a-glance" in order to be processed.**
- For High Achievement and Specific Academic Ability categories only, you may submit the **MyData** individual comprehensive student report in lieu of report card or cum copies. **NEW:** OLSAT-8 scores are now available on MyData!
- If you are submitting a **"potentially gifted"** student for High Achievement or Specific Academic Ability using the **poverty indicator**, the MyData comprehensive student report will verify low SES and be required as part of the application.
- Don't wait for your second grade students to be tested with the OLSAT-8 before submitting your **second grade Intellectual referrals** this year. Remember — the OLSAT-8 assesses for the High Achievement, not Intellectual, category.
- If you are a brand new coordinator or need one-on-one support, **sign up for a small group identification training** on the Learning Zone, <https://lz.lausd.net>. This training will provide individualized assistance with the referral process, including interpreting your SIS gifted menus and completing referral packets.

We are hard at work with ITD to further streamline the referral and identification process. Our goal is to eliminate the majority of the paperwork for the High Achievement and Specific Academic Ability categories, including the application and CST score/report card documentation. We will email our GATE distribution list as soon as this ITD rollout occurs!