

# **GATE Identification**

**San Diego Unified School District  
Special Education Division  
Related and Low Incidence Services**

**Presented to**

**GATE District Advisory Committee**

**by**

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# Current GATE Identification

- \* Approx. 12,000 student were tested with the Raven last year
- \* Who was tested:
  - \* All second graders
  - \* New third, fourth, and fifth graders
  - \* Fifth grade students were re-tested if:
    - \* They scored above the 85%ile with TWO Advanced CST scores or
    - \* GATE cluster students scored THREE Advanced test scores
    - \* Scores were adjusted to account for the elimination of CST testing
- \* New to District procedure will continue to be utilized for grades 6-12

# Historical Context

## August 2011

- \* The GATE department school psychologists were reassigned back to the Related and Specialized Services Department.

## November 2013

- \* The advanced placement and school psychology departments merged into one work group that consisted of community members, parents, GATE DAC members, school psychologists, and administrators.

## Spring 2014

- \* A sample multi-factor identification matrix was presented to the workgroup.

## Fall 2014

- \* A draft of the multi-factor identification matrix for new to District students was introduced to the workgroup.

## Fall 2014– Spring 2015

- \* Student Services continued to research potential GATE assessment tools, revise multi-factor identification matrix and prepare GATE Identification recommendation changes to the BOE for approval.

# GATE workgroup goals

- \* Revise the GATE identification process
  - \* Criteria for eligibility
  - \* Retesting criteria
  - \* Identification of new to District students
  - \* Appeals
- \* Revise administrative procedures 4235 and 4236

# Board Approval

- \* The BOE approved a new process in the identification of students who are eligible for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Programs and Services.
- \* The new process creates a multi-factor eligibility matrix to allow consideration of multiple sources of information in the identification process.
- \* The new multi-factor eligibility matrix will support a more comprehensive view of each student's performance and abilities. This system moves away from viewing a child as a single test score.

# Benefits

- \* The BOE approved replacement of the Ravens Progressive Matrices with a current standardized, norm-referenced, web-based instrument: Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Inc.
- \* The new computer based assessment will allow for more flexibility in test scheduling throughout the school year.
- \* Computer based assessment aligns with California's move towards technology based instruction and assessment.

# CogAT

## \* What is the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)?

- \* The CogAT battery is the District approved GATE assessment instrument for grades 2 – 5.
- \* The CogAT is a psychometrically sound, norm-referenced, web-based cognitive assessment tool.
- \* The CogAT provides 3 subtests (as opposed to 1 with the Raven) that measure non-verbal abilities, quantitative abilities, and verbal abilities.
- \* This test provides a more comprehensive assessment of fluid (problem solving skills) and crystallized intelligence (acquired knowledge) while maintaining the ability to test diverse learners through non-verbal abilities.
- \* The test takes up to 90 minutes to administer.

# Testing Criteria and Appeals

- \* The basic testing criteria will remain the same. All second grade students and 3rd-5th new to District students will be tested. Fifth graders that meet the re-test criteria will also be tested.
- \* The re-test criteria will need to be revised due to the lack of CST data. Smarter Balanced Assessments will be factored in as scores become available.
- \* Results will be shared as they are now, via letters home to parents.
- \* The appeal process will remain the same. Parents request an appeal and the team reviews all student data, including but not limited to grades, teacher input, parent input, test scores, and additional factors.

# Where are we now?

- \* Currently, the Information Technology and School Psychology departments are coordinating with the publisher of the CogAT assessment to create the new multiple-factor GATE eligibility criteria electronic reporting system.
- \* There are many logistical components that are being considered through this process.
- \* The District estimates that GATE testing will begin in the spring of 2016.

# Supports and Services

- \* School Psychologists to receive training from CogAT publishers
- \* Quarterly meetings of the GATE workgroup
- \* Ongoing program monitoring and end of year evaluation
- \* Continued meeting with the GATE advisory committee and senior leadership
- \* Focused GATE professional development for school psychologists and other stake holders during the distinguished lecture series

# Questions...

gift·ed1.

['giftɪd]

ADJECTIVE

1. having exceptional talent or natural ability:

"a gifted amateur musician"

synonyms: talented · skillful · skilled · accomplished · expert · consummate ·

master(ly) · virtuoso · first-rate · able · apt · adept · proficient · intelligent · clever · bright · brilliant · precocious · crack · top-notch · ace

Oxford Dictionaries

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