



ACADEMIC OFFICE
Gifted and Talented Education

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José L. Banda, Superintendent
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

To ensure equity among students, all 3rd grade students in the Sacramento City Unified School District will be screened for **possible** Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) services identification. The district utilizes the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), Form 7 as the initial screening tool in the GATE Identification process. This is a different assessment than the one that your child may have taken in 1st grade. The assessment will be administered in all 3rd grade classrooms between **January 17 and February 17, 2017**.

The CogAT assessment will be administered by your child's classroom teacher and completed on computers. It is a timed multiple choice assessment and takes approximately 2.5 hours to complete, however the specific working time of the test is 90 minutes. Time is allocated for students to turn on computers and log-in to the system. Teachers will be trained in test administration. The test may happen over 2 or 3 school days to reduce "test fatigue."

The test measures cognitive development and reasoning abilities, both general and specific. The assessment of general reasoning abilities indicates how children learn new tasks and solve problems particularly when given little or no direct instruction. These abilities are measured in three domains: verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal. The most significant use of this assessment is to assist teachers in adapting instruction and materials to meet the individual needs of all students.

The publishers of the assessment score the tests and provide information to be used by both parents and teachers. The information you will receive regarding your child's scores may help you to better understand your child's performance. All families will be notified of their child's assessment screening results.

If you choose **not** to have your child participate, you may obtain the *Request Not Participate in Third Grade Universal GATE Screening* form from your child's school office. Return this form directly to the GATE Department by January 9th. No forms will be accepted after that date.

Tip for the test: Please allow your child to take this test with no stress and do not announce that this is the GATE Test. GATE screening is **only one way** that this data is used, and GATE Identification is based on multiple criteria. **Proctors will explain that "the test gives adults information about how the students think and why they find some things easy and some things more difficult."** Children usually enjoy the testing activities because they are more like puzzles.

Additional information about the SCUSD GATE Program and Services are available at the district's GATE website: www.scusd.edu/gate. You may also contact the GATE Department at (916) 643-2348.

Sincerely,

Kari Hanson-Smith, Coordinator GATE & AP Programs