



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What type of test is the GATE test?

The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) will be used as part of the identification process for the Gifted and Talented Education Program. Parental permission is required before we may use this instrument with your child.

The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) is a school ability test that tests verbal and nonverbal reasoning and thinking skills. It tests one's ability to analyze, reason, and think abstractly. It is very different from the STAR test that students in the state take in the spring. OLSAT is based on the notion that to learn new things, students must be able to perceive accurately, to recognize and recall what has been perceived, to think logically, to understand relationships, to abstract from a set of particulars, and to apply generalizations to new and different contexts. The OLSAT is an aptitude test, unlike the STAR achievement test.

The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) is administered at your child's school site during spring testing and administered at the district office during fall testing. (Private school students would take the test at their public home school location.) The test, including directions, is approximately one hour long and administered in the morning with about 20 students. Fourth through eighth grade students take the test on a scantron; third graders answer directly in the test booklet.

After the identification process is completed, all parents will be notified in writing of the test results and program eligibility.

What types of questions are asked on the GATE test?

Students perform such tasks as detecting likenesses and differences, following directions, classifying, and establishing sequence, completing analogies, and solving matrixes. A few examples of non-verbal and verbal "Sample Test Questions" can be found on our GATE website that will be similar to those the students will be asked to perform.

How long is the OLSAT test?

The actual test is 40 minutes long. Sixty four (64) multiple choice questions for 3rd grade and seventy-two (72) multiple choice questions for 4th through 8th grades.



What can I do to help my child? How can I help my child to prepare for this test?

There are several things parents can do to help prepare their child. Parents should make sure their child gets adequate sleep and eats a nutritionally balanced breakfast prior to the test. Reassurance from parents can positively impact a child's test scores. Also, parents should encourage their child to do their best, while reminding them that they may not be able to answer every question correctly. The OLSAT assesses a child's thinking skills and provides an understanding of a child's ability to perform a variety of reasoning tasks. By looking at the sample questions, you can familiarize your child with the type of test question and their structure.

What happens if my child is sick on the day of testing?

Children who are ill, and cannot attend their assigned school site test date will be notified by GATE staff of a make-up date. This date is determined after testing is completed throughout the district. It is recommended that you notify your child's school and/or district office immediately.

What day will testing occur for my child?

Testing in the fall will occur in late October. Testing in the spring will occur during the March/April timeframe. You will be notified in writing when your child will be tested via postal mail. Notices generally are postal mailed two (2) weeks prior to the actual test date at your child's school.

What factors are used to identify a student?

In identifying students, the district uses multiple measures to determine their GATE status. The district looks at STAR test results, the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) scores, teacher observations, parent information, special categorical classifications, and other supportive information as appropriate. All of these factors are taken into consideration when identifying a GATE student. The 98th percentile or above is the main criteria used to determine qualification for GATE identification.

How is the GATE program run?

Each individual school site has a GATE plan that outlines how the needs of their students are met. Contact your school's principal or the GATE coordinator at your school for information on this plan.



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If a child/student does not qualify, can he/she take the test again?

Yes. A child may take the test again in two years, i.e., if a student takes the test in third grade, he/she is eligible to retake the test in fifth grade.

What if my child was identified GATE in another district?

Students new to the district and previously identified in a prior district, will be reviewed individually by the district GATE coordinator to establish whether additional testing is required. Testing by outside agencies or practitioners is not sufficient criteria to meet the identification requirement.

Who may refer my child?

Students, parents, or teachers may initiate a referral using the forms located in all school offices. All students in the district are to be considered eligible for referral. A complete referral includes available testing data and other relevant information.

All referral forms are returned by the parent(s) to the school office. The school office will complete necessary information and forward the completed Permission/Referral/Questionnaire form to the district GATE office. The Parent Questionnaire is reviewed as an integral part of the identification process.

Does my child need to be re-identified each year?

No. Once he/she has been identified GATE in our district, he/she automatically qualifies for GATE each year in our district.

Test results are included in the cumulative folders of those children who are identified as gifted. Documentation of non-qualified students is maintained at the district office for a period of five years. Once identified, students do not need to participate in further testing to be eligible for the program. Students whose performance does not meet the criteria may be referred again, but are tested no more than once every other year.

More information can be found on our WEB page:

<http://www.cupertino.k12.ca.us> — select the 'GATE' page

If after reading this information and reviewing our WEB page, you still have a question you may phone 252-3000, ext. 199 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please leave a clear message, with your name and phone number and a staff member will return your call.