Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do you determine if a child is eligible for G.A.T.E.?
   Three factors are used in the identification process. These include:
   - The screening of all second grade students using a test of cognitive ability called the Naglieri. Students who score in the top 10% (approximately 92% or higher) are then, with parent permission, recommended for further screening.
   - Standardized test scores are the second determining factor. Scores must range in the advanced range on the California Standards Test in either English Language Arts or Math. The other score cannot be below the proficient range. Cut point scores are used but vary from grade level to grade level.
   - Teacher referral on the characteristics of giftedness. The child’s teacher is asked to complete a teacher checklist that rates each student in six areas or domains of giftedness: creative, intellectual, high achievement, leadership, specific academic aptitude and visual and performing arts. A composite of these factors is used in determining GATE identification.

2. When will I learn about my child’s eligibility?
   - Parents will be notified by mail by the first week in October.

3. If my child is GATE identified when will the program begin?
   - Students will be served beginning in the mid October. The delivery model varies by school site. Some schools offer the program within the school day and other participate in an after school enrichment model. Please contact your child’s school for more specific details.
   - Differentiated learning opportunities will be the main delivery model for all students. Teachers will modify, extend and enrich the core curriculum for students who participate in the program.
   - Martinez utilizes the Renzuli Learning System as the model for enrichment for GATE identified students in grades 3-8. Please visit the website for further details. [http://www.renzullilearning.com](http://www.renzullilearning.com).

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4. Does a child who does not qualify in the second grade have any other opportunities to qualify for the GATE program?
   - Yes. A student can qualify for the GATE program in grades 3+ by having scores in the advanced level for two or more consecutive years on the California Standards Test. They cannot score lower than proficient in any category. Additional teacher input on the Checklist of giftedness will be used in the identification process.
   - Alternative methods of identifications include observation, review of student work and a student interview by the GATE placement committee.

5. Does a student who is identified for the GATE program at the elementary level have to retest for the middle and high school?
   - No. Once a student is identified as GATE they are not required to test again. Students at Martinez Junior High are placed in mastery level classes based upon student performance and advanced scores on the California Standards Test. The Advanced Placement classes at the high school are open to all students who are willing to do the advanced course work. Teacher recommendations are also considered when placing students in the AP classes at the high school.

6. What happens if my child does not meet the eligibility requirements?
   - While all children have gifts not all are considered gifted. We suggest that you monitor your child’s progress on the state standardized tests given in spring. If the student’s scores are in the advanced range in reading and math you might want to consider having them screened for GATE eligibility. Contact your child’s teacher or Cindy Santos in the GATE office (313-0480) ext. 235 if you would like to have your child screened for eligibility.