

## **GATE TEACHERS**

Teachers who work with GATE clusters in Snowline School District are required to have a certificate in gifted and talented education from either a university or from the Snowline School District training.

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

An annual GATE parent night is held in the fall. This evening gives parents an overview of the program, information on various aspects of parenting a gifted child and provides a forum for questions and concerns. In addition, a GATE Parent Advisory Council meets four times a year to make recommendations for the program.



**GATE Program Coordinator**

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## **G.A.T.E. Program**

*The Snowline Joint Unified School District offers a Gifted and Talented Education Program designed to provide qualitatively different instructional strategies for students who demonstrate the intellectual capacity that places them among the top three to five percent of students nationwide. Whenever possible, students are clustered and differentiation is woven throughout the curriculum.*

### WHAT IS A

#### **DIFFERENTIATED CURRICULUM?**

##### ◇ **Acceleration/Pacing**

Students are permitted to move faster through the curricular content and given credit for what they already know.

##### ◇ **Depth**

Students are given opportunities to study aspects of the curriculum in greater depth. They become experts in fields of study that link to the core curriculum.

##### ◇ **Complexity**

Students are given opportunities to make connections between content areas. Students are taught using an inter-disciplinary thematic approach in order to see the relationships between all areas of study.

##### ◇ **Novelty**

Students are given opportunities to share what they know creatively. They are encouraged to present projects that reflect their interests, talents, and abilities.

### WHAT ARE

#### **GATE CLUSTERS?**

Recent research from the Center on Gifted and Talented Youth at the University of Connecticut at Hartford, as well as the Johns Hopkins Center for the Gifted and Talented, support the use of clusters as a way of meeting the differentiated needs of gifted students. The Snowline School District recognizes this research and places identified GATE students (3-8) in cluster classes with trained GATE teachers. Whenever possible, a cluster is defined as consisting of at least 10 students.



### WHAT ABOUT

#### **HIGH SCHOOL GATE STUDENTS?**

High Schools throughout California focus on Honors and Advanced Placement classes, and additional academic counseling services for their GATE students. Snowline School District is proud of the high academic standing of Serrano High School which offers many Honors and Advanced Placement classes in a wide variety of subjects. These classes are designed to meet the needs of students who are performers and divergent thinkers. Advanced Placement classes offer the additional benefit of giving students, who pass the exit exams, credit for these courses at college.

#### **WHO CAN BE TESTED FOR THE GATE PROGRAM?**

Any child (grades 2-8) attending the Snowline School District may participate in the screening process which is done each year during February and March. The screening process takes into consideration the following:

- ❖ Cognitive Abilities Test (Cog AT) for verbal, math, and spatial intelligence
- ❖ Characteristic Behavior Scale  
Parents and teachers measure students for the gifted characteristics they utilize in the learning process.
- ❖ Success in the classroom
- ❖ California STAR Testing program
- ❖ Special considerations for children with learning disabilities, economic disadvantages, and students whose primary language is not English.

Scores from each of these areas are tallied and if a student receives 15 points or more, he/she qualifies for the GATE Program.

Parents who wish to have their student screened for GATE should contact the school office by the end of January.

