

Sierra Plumas Joint Unified School District is in the process of identifying students for its Gifted and Talented (GATE) program. GATE is designed to serve the needs of exceptional students so they can reach their highest potential. Typically, only 2-5% of the student population is considered gifted. At each school site, identified students will be provided with differentiated curriculum that utilizes a variety of teaching styles and learning methods to provide depth and complexity to the California State Standards.

Students may qualify for GATE in one or more of the following categories:

- Intellectual ability
- High achievement
- Specific academic ability
- Leadership ability
- Creative ability
- Visual and performing arts

Multiple measures will be used for identification of students including the Raven's Test (a language-free measurement of potential), CAT9 achievement scores, and teacher reports. Test results and evidence will be reviewed by a GATE screening committee composed of an administrator, the GATE coordinator, and classroom and resource teachers. This committee will determine students' eligibility based on a rubric of the qualifying measures. GATE students will be sought among all student populations including English learners, Special Education, and at-risk students. Students previously identified by SPJUSD or another district are already eligible to participate in the program and need not undergo further evaluation.

The identification process for the remainder of the students will start this spring with the administration of the Raven's Test. Testing will begin with the second grade and proceed up through grades 3-11. Administrators, teachers, and parents may nominate students for GATE identification. Referral forms will be available at the school sites and on the SPJUSD web site.

Parent permission is required for testing as well as for participation in the program. Forms will be sent home with students once the testing has been scheduled. If you have any questions or comments, contact Mary Nourse, GATE Coordinator at 862-1123 or mnourse@spjUSD.org