



## SVUSD GATE Program Description

Element	Element Description
<b>Mission</b>	Saddleback Valley Unified School District provides our gifted students opportunities to eXplore, eXpand, and eXcel to maximize their potential.
<b>Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide differentiated instruction that is rigorous and responsive to students' intellectual needs</li> <li>• Enrich the core curriculum by regularly implementing the GATE program standards, including depth, complexity, and novelty</li> <li>• Foster a sense of wonder, promote curiosity, and develop critical thinking skills</li> <li>• Meet the unique and diverse social-emotional needs of GATE students</li> </ul>
<b>Model</b>	<p>The GATE program is offered at all elementary school sites throughout Saddleback Valley Unified School District. GATE-identified students in a grade level are clustered together in a classroom setting to receive differentiated activities from their teacher.* The size of each cluster will vary between school sites. Classroom teachers of GATE students are tasked with fulfilling the needs of a wide variety of GATE students with common intellectual ability, but with varying levels of academic, social, and emotional development.</p> <p>Differentiated instruction that includes intellectually similar peers occurs at different points throughout all curricular areas. The prompts of depth and complexity, universal concepts, scholarly habits, and novelty are used throughout each day to enrich the learning experience. Classroom experiences are intentionally designed for content and length of time as appropriate based on the needs of students in the classroom.</p>
<b>Student Experience</b>	<p>Differentiated activities are conducted as part of the regular program. In supplemental and integrated educational activities, students work within the GATE standards in small groups and/or whole-class, with differentiated opportunities throughout the course of daily instruction. This includes but is not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depth &amp; Complexity</li> <li>• Universal Themes</li> <li>• Scholarly Habits</li> <li>• Think Like a Disciplinarian</li> <li>• Novelty</li> </ul> <p>GATE students are given opportunities to interact with intellectually similar peers in structured learning experiences, while also interacting with students of all ability levels throughout the course of each school day.</p>

<b>Identification</b>	<p>Identification of GATE students begins in 2nd grade in SVUSD, with placement in the GATE program beginning in 3rd grade. Multiple measures, including cognitive ability, gifted characteristics, and achievement are considered for identification. Students that are identified as GATE achieve a qualifying cognitive ability score equal to or greater than 95th percentile, or 93rd percentile with multiple measures considered.</p> <p>GATE identification is confidential and should remain private.</p>
<b>Teacher Qualification</b>	<p>Each cluster teacher completes a GATE certification course and participates in ongoing GATE professional learning to refine knowledge, skills, and abilities to work successfully with GATE students.</p>

*\*The only exception to this would be if parents prefer to opt their child out of the program, if a different environment best meets the child's needs, or the number of students in a class exceeds the number of students that could fit in one classroom.*