

GATE Identification FAQs

What is GATE?

Gifted and Talented Education is the educational program designed to address the learning styles of students who have been identified as gifted and talented.

What type of GATE program does Rocklin Academy Family of Schools provide?

Rocklin Academy Family of Schools strives to identify and serve gifted and high achieving students from all groups, including those from diverse racial, socio-economic, linguistic, and cultural backgrounds. Through highly motivating lessons and appropriate placement in classroom clusters at the elementary level, we provide differentiated learning opportunities during the regular school day that are based on grade level standards extended by depth, complexity and acceleration which enable students to reach their full academic and personal potential. At the high school level we offer a variety of Advanced Placement (AP) and dual enrollment courses to further challenge our students.

What are classroom clusters?

GATE classroom clusters are groups of students that are identified as gifted and talented who are placed in the same classroom. This enables like-minded students to collaborate and work together when appropriate.

Are GATE identified students gifted in all academic areas?

Gifted students are generally not gifted in all areas.

What is “twice-exceptional”?

Twice-exceptional learners are those who qualify for gifted programs as well as special education services. These students may have exceptional ability in some academic areas and significant learning difficulties in other areas.

Who may be tested for GATE?

All RAFOS students in grades 1 and 4, who are not already GATE identified, will be administered the NNAT3 in the spring unless the family chooses to opt-out. Parents and/or teachers or administrators of students in grades 2-3 and 5-11 may also request testing at another grade one time while at RAFOS.

If my child has already been GATE identified with RAFOS, may they take the test again?

Once a child has been GATE identified through RAFOS it is not necessary to take the test again.

What test does RAFOS use for GATE testing?

RAFOS uses the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (3rd edition), otherwise known as the NNAT3.

What does it mean to be identified as gifted by use of a nonverbal assessment such as the NNAT3?

Gifted students identified in the nonverbal area have an innate ability to make and see relationships. They are skilled at abstract reasoning and problem solving. These students have an advanced ability to make and recognize connections and relationships. In the classroom, relationships exist within each subject area and across subject areas. Because of their abilities to make relationships between ideas and content, they may enjoy puzzles, assembling and creating things, using pattern blocks and construction materials, and other activities that require working with one's hands. They are also very observant about changes in the environment around them. These students may or may not be fluent with language-based tasks. Some nonverbally identified gifted students demonstrate what they have learned most effectively through interactions, hands-on activities, and presentations.

Why does RAFOS use the NNAT3?

The NNAT3 allows for a culturally-neutral evaluation of students' cognitive abilities. As the NNAT is a non-verbal test, it can be administered to children who are just learning English. The test consists entirely of problems involving shapes, figures, and patterns, and does not require reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, or knowledge of words. Children from different cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, or children whose first language is not English, are therefore not at a disadvantage when taking the NNAT3. As a result, the NNAT3 is deemed a fair and dependable test for measuring giftedness.

How is the NNAT3 administered and how long does it take?

The NNAT3 is a paper-pencil test and takes 30 minutes.

What should my child do to prepare for GATE testing?

There is no specific preparation recommended for an intelligence test. However, as a parent you can:

- Ensure that your child is completing all school assignments
- Help your child to develop good study habits, thinking skills, and a positive attitude toward learning
- Stay in communication with your child's teacher
- Encourage your child to read as much and as widely as possible
- Look for educational games and programs that encourage your child
- Help our child learn how to follow directions carefully
- Help your child to embrace failure and encourage a "growth mindset"

May my child take the NNAT3 more than once?

Students may only take the NNAT3 once per school year. It will be administered in in the spring to 1st and 4th grade students who are not already identified. Students in grades 2-3 and 5-11 may choose to register for GATE testing. Dates/times will be communicated through the website.

What are the criteria for GATE qualification?

RAFOS uses multiple measures to qualify for GATE services. Students must meet the following criteria:

- **Cognitive Ability**
 - Score at or above the 97th percentile on the NNAT3
- **Academic Performance**
 - Performing one full year above grade level in ELA and/or Mathematics (grades 1-3)
 - “Exceeds” standards on CAASPP in ELA and/or Mathematics (grades 4 and up)
- **GATE Characteristics**
 - Parent Survey
 - Teacher Survey

My child qualified for GATE services in another district. Will that transfer to RAFOS?

Each school district in CA and each state across the nation determines their own identification practices for Gifted and Talented Education services. In order to determine whether or not your child’s GATE status is transferable, documentation of GATE status from the previous district/state will be required. Please provide RAFOS with the following documents:

- District letter verifying GATE status *and*
- GATE screening assessment results

Please feel free to contact us at 916-778-4544 ext. 721 if you have further questions.

I have other questions about GATE. Where might I find more information?

You may want to visit the [California Department of Education GATE Identification Frequently Asked Questions page](#) for more information.