



# Kings Canyon Unified School District

## Gifted and Talented Education Program

### GATE

Kings Canyon Unified School District offers a variety of programs to develop unique education opportunities for high-achieving and underachieving pupils in our elementary and secondary schools who have been identified as gifted and talented. It is our intent that special efforts be made to ensure that pupils from economically disadvantaged and varying cultural backgrounds are provided with full participation in these unique opportunities.

#### **Mission Statement:**

The KCUSD GATE Program is committed to implementing a program that meets the unique social, emotional, and intellectual needs of gifted, talented, and high potential students through the collaboration of students, educators, parents, and community members that ensures opportunities for maximum growth and development for lifelong success.

#### **Vision Statement:**

Provide challenging educational opportunities for gifted, talented, and high potential students.

#### **Goals:**

The KCUSD GATE Program targets the gifted, talented, and high potential students in 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The program is comprised of a differentiated curriculum for these students. We accomplish this by:

- Offering differentiated instruction in Language Arts and Math.
- Engaging students in project-based learning including open-ended projects.
- Providing an opportunity for all GATE students to research an interest and present their findings during the individual projects.

#### **Objectives:**

Students accepted into the program will:

- Develop critical thinking skills in order to solve problems logically.
- Develop research skills and use information gathered to implement research projects.
- Demonstrate the ability to use creative problem-solving strategies.
- Recognize how change in and around their world affects their relationships.
- Recognize specific talents and use them to benefit themselves and others.
- Develop appreciation of the Arts and recognize artistic talents.
- Develop specific talents in the Arts and demonstrate performance.

## Who are GATE students?

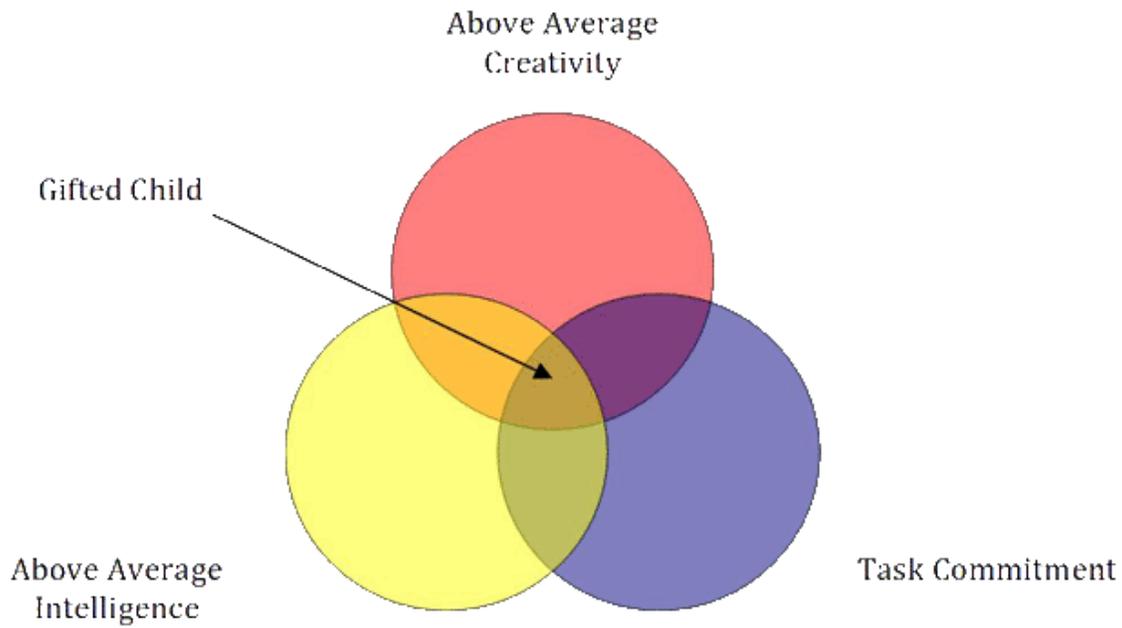
### DEFINITION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED

A gifted and talented student is a child or youth who performs at or shows the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment and who: exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area; possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or excels in a specific academic field.

### THE THREE-RING CONCEPTION OF GIFTEDNESS

Research on creative-productive people has consistently shown that although no single criterion can be used to determine giftedness, persons who have achieved recognition because of their unique accomplishments and creative contributions possess a relatively well-defined set of three interlocking clusters of traits. These clusters consist of above average, though not necessarily superior, ability, task commitment, and creativity (see Figure A). It is important to point out that no single cluster “makes giftedness.” Rather, it is the interaction among the three clusters that research has shown to be the necessary ingredient for creative-productive accomplishment (Renzulli, 1978). This interaction is represented by the shaded portion of Figure A. It is also important to point out that each cluster plays an important role in contributing to the display of gifted behaviors. This point is emphasized because one of the major errors that continue to be made in identification procedures is to overemphasize superior abilities at the expense of the other two clusters of traits.

Figure A



**1. Well Above Average Ability** can be defined in two ways:

**a). General Ability**

- High levels of abstract thinking, verbal and numerical reasoning, spatial relationships, memory, and word fluency
- Adaptation to and the shaping of novel situations encountered in the external environment
- The automatization of information processing; rapid, accurate, and selective retrieval of information

**b). Specific Abilities**

- The application of various combination of the above general abilities to one or more specialized areas of knowledge or areas of human performance (e.g., the arts, leadership, administration)
- The capacity for acquiring and making appropriate use of advanced amounts of formal knowledge, technique, logistics, and strategy in the pursuit of particular problems or manifestation of specialized areas of performance
- The capacity to sort out relevant and irrelevant information associated with a particular problem or area of study or performance

**2. Creativity**

- Fluency, flexibility, and originality of thought
- Openness to experience; receptive to that which is new and different (even irrational) in the thoughts, actions, and products of oneself and others
- Curious, speculative, adventurous, and mentally playful; willing to take risks in thought and action, even to point of being uninhibited
- Sensitive to detail, aesthetic characteristics of ideas and things; willing to act upon and react to external stimulation and one's own ideas and feelings

### 3. Task Commitment

- The capacity for high levels of interest, enthusiasm, fascination, and involvement in a particular problem, area of study, or form of human expression
- The capacity for perseverance, endurance, determination, hard work, and dedicated practice
- The ability to identify significant problems within specialized areas; the ability to tune into major channels of communication and new development within given fields

Setting high standards for one's work, maintaining an openness to self and external criticism, developing an aesthetic sense of taste, quality and excellence about one's own and work of others

### CHARACTERISTICS OF GIFTEDNESS

- Thinks clearly, recognizes implied relationships, and comprehends meanings
- Shows rapid language development and ability
- Has strong observation skills
- Possesses a large vocabulary
- Reads above grade level
- Exhibits independence, individualism, and self-sufficiency
- Asks penetrating, searching questions
- Produces original products or ideas
- Solves puzzles easily
- Shows wide interests
- Has a good sense of humor
- Has an active imagination
- Uses problem solving strategies
- Thinks in abstract, complex, and logical ideas
- Shows academic superiority
- May show underachievement
- May have interpersonal difficulties
- May be a nonconformist
- May be a perfectionist
- May be easily frustrated
- May show emotional sensitivity

### THE HIGH-ACHIEVING CHILD AND THE GIFTED CHILD

**High Achiever**

**Gifted**

*knows the answer*  
*is interested*  
*is attentive*  
*has good ideas*  
*works hard*  
*answers the questions*  
*top group*  
*listens with interest*  
*learns with ease*  
*6-8 repetitions for mastery*  
*understands ideas*  
*enjoys peers*  
*grasps the meaning*  
*completes assignments*  
*is receptive*  
*copies accurately*  
*enjoys school*  
*absorbs information*  
*technician*  
*good memorizer*  
*enjoys straight forward sequential presentation*  
*is alert*  
*is pleased with own learning*

*asks the question*  
*is highly curious*  
*is mentally and physically involved*  
*has wild silly ideas*  
*plays around, yet tests well*  
*discusses in detail, elaborates*  
*beyond the group*  
*shows strong feelings and opinions*  
*already knows*  
*1-2 repetitions for mastery*  
*constructs abstracts*  
*prefers adults*  
*draws inferences*  
*initiates projects*  
*is intense*  
*creates a new design*  
*enjoys learning*  
*manipulates information*  
*inventor*  
*good guesser*  
*thrives on complexity*  
  
*is keenly observant*  
*is highly self-critical*

### **Program Descriptions:**

The KCUSD Gifted and Talented Program will focus on three domains; general intellectual, specific academic and creative arts. The specific academic areas of focus are Mathematics, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, Computer and Visual and Performing Arts.

Students in KCUSD GATE program are offered the following services:

- The GATE program is available for students in grades 4 to 8. Identified students are provided with options for after school programs, honors classes, and or summer school.
- Differentiated instruction in the regular classroom provides opportunities for GATE students to excel during the regular school day. The gifted curriculum will offer enriched and accelerated learning opportunities for the gifted learner. The curriculum will be differentiated in terms of content, process, and products. Students will be involved in inquiry-based lessons, group problem-solving settings, independent investigations, group discussions, and individual/group performances

### **Identification & Selections:**

All students will be screened by the GATE Coordinator and selected teachers and administrators.

**For the Gifted and Talented Student**

Kings Canyon Unified GATE uses multiple assessments to determine identification for GATE.

- Students in grade 3 have the opportunity to take the Otis Lennon School Ability Test, an intelligence test that measures students' abilities to be successful in school. Children who did not score high enough in third grade do have the opportunity to take the test again during their 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade years.
- California English Language Development Test, the state test to determine second language acquisition.
- Teacher observation and recommendation.

**Calendar:**

October 9, 2015: Parent and Student forms due to school  
March 2, 2016: Middle School Expo, 5:30-7:00 PM  
March 8, 2016: Orange Cove Elementary Expo, 5:30-6:30 PM  
March 10, 2016: Reedley Elementary Expo, 5:30-7:00 PM  
June 13 – 30, 2016: GATE Summer School 8:00-11:30 AM