Gifted/Talented Programs
2026-2027 AT-A-GLANCE:
Deadlines, Policy Documents, and Contact Information

Date	Event/Task	Document/Location	Send to/Contact:
Monday, August 31	**Conservatory of Fine Arts** applications due. Students identified as talented by Gifted/Talented Programs in the visual or performing arts have priority; space is limited.	**Application:** Parents/families may apply at: apply.lausd.net. The application will generate a form to be signed by the principal of the student's school.	Email signed application to: GATE@lausd.net Do not hand-deliver paperwork. Dr. Nicole Niederdeppe, District Coordinator nnn8729@lausd.net
Month of September	**Fall GATE Coordinator Training** All GATE Coordinators, including SAS sites, must attend.	**Registration in MyPLN:** lausd.org/mypln	Dr. Nicole Niederdeppe, District Coordinator nnn8729@lausd.net
Thursday, September 17	**Fall Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Coordinator Training** SAS Coordinators must attend in addition to GATE Coordinator Training.	**Zoom:** 4:00–5:00 p.m. https://lausd.zoom.us/j/85971989117	Michelle Papazyan, District Coordinator mpapazya@lausd.net
Monday, October 5	**Fall GATE Coordinator Virtual Office Hour** *OPTIONAL*, open to all GATE/SAS coordinators.	**Zoom:** 3:00-4:30 p.m. https://lausd.zoom.us/j/87854686693	Dr. Nicole Niederdeppe, District Coordinator nnn8729@lausd.net
Wednesday, October 14	**Assessment Packets for GATE Identification in the Visual and Performing Arts** All Los Angeles Unified schools and affiliated charter schools must submit completed referrals through MiSiS prior to sending in documents/artifacts, including teacher checklist and screening committee information. **IMPORTANT:** - Use the most current referral forms (Attachment E and F). - Each document must be: legible	**Policy:** Bulletin: *Policy for Assessing and Identifying Students for Gifted/Talented Programs* **Referral Guidelines:** Reference Guide: *Guidelines for Identifying Students as Gifted in the Visual and Performing Arts* **Referral Templates:** Attachments in reference	Email scanned copies (no photographs) to GATE@lausd.net Do not hand-deliver paperwork **Updated: August 10, 2026** .

	and one-sided, written in blue or black ink or typed on white paper, with no highlighted areas - Screening forms (Attachments C and D) are to be filed in the students cumulative folder and are **not** sent to Gifted/Talented Programs as part of the referral. - School staff are to distribute page 2 of Attachment E detailing the requirements of the audition/demonstration to all applicants. - Visual arts portfolios will be uploaded to a Schoology course by the student, family, or school prior to the event. Do **not** send portfolio artwork to Gifted/Talented Programs or bring it to the event.	guide. All policy documents can be located in LAUSD'S eLibrary and Gifted/Talented Programs website gate.lausd.org under "District Communications."	
Friday, October 23 (5:00 p.m.)	**Deadline for the 2025-2026 Annual GATE Report** An online report is required for each cost center (K-12). Principals can provide access to GATE coordinators for completion.	**Policy:** Memorandum: *2025-2026 Annual GATE Report (pending)*	**On-line Submission on the Principal's Portal** Principalsportal.lausd.net
Friday, November 6	**Deadline for Student Choices Application for 2027-2028 School Year** The on-time application process for Choices programs begins October 1, 2026.	**Application:** To apply, parents must create a login and password under "Parents" at apply.lausd.net.	**Apply online:** apply.lausd.net **Choices Inquiries:** (213) 241-4177 applyforschools@lausd.net
Friday, November 20	**Deadline for Verification of Eligibility for Gifted Magnet Programs and Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS)- Non-LAUSD Students ONLY** - For an applicant to be eligible, the student must be verified as meeting one of the program-specific criteria outlined in the Choices brochure (pages 6-7) prior to the deadline. - Parents/guardians of private	**General Information:** choices.lausd.net gate.lausd.org (213) 241-4177 :	**Verification forms are emailed by the school of attendance to:** giftedverification@lausd.net **Or mailed by the school of attendance to:** Choices P.O. Box 513307

	school, independent charter and other non-LAUSD students who are applying to gifted magnets or SAS must follow the procedures outlined in the Choices brochure prior to the deadline.		Los Angeles, CA 90051 Email submission of Verification of Eligibility forms is strongly recommended; the sender will receive confirmation of receipt.
Friday, December 11	**Deadline for Online Verification for Gifted Magnet/SAS- LAUSD Students** - Deadline for school administrator or designee to verify eligibility for District students applying to Gifted Magnet programs or Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) for 2027-2028 in the Principal Portal. - Online Gifted Magnet/SAS verification system scheduled to open December 1, 2026.	**Policy:** Memorandum: *Online Verification for Gifted Magnet and Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Applicants* Optional trainings on the verification process will be held in fall 2026; registration is available at lausd.org/mypln	**Online verification in the Principal's Portal:** principalportal.lausd.net
Friday, January 15	**Deadline for Reporting Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Student Participation Data in MiSiS** To ensure equitable access and appropriate programming, all designated SAS sites (including Affiliated Charter School sites) are required, annually, to report SAS student participation data for qualified SAS participants.	**Policy:** Memorandum: *Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS): Reporting Student Participation in MiSiS* Training for reporting SAS student participation in MiSiS will be available in November and December 2026; register in MyPLN.	**Online in MiSiS:** lausd.org/misis
Month of February	**Spring GATE Coordinator Training** All GATE Coordinators, including SAS sites, must attend.	**Registration in MyPLN:** lausd.org/mypln	Dr. Nicole Niederdeppe, District Coordinator nnn8729@lausd.net
	OLSAT-8 Trainings All GATE and/or testing coordinators at schools with second grade students must attend the overview and technical training.	**Time and Zoom Links TBD**	Wynne Wong-Cheng, District Coordinator wynne.wong@lausd.net

Thursday, February 18	**Spring Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Coordinator Training** SAS Coordinators must attend in addition to GATE Coordinator Training.	**Zoom:** 4:00–5:00 p.m. https://lausd.zoom.us/j/87084041303	Michelle Papazyan, District Coordinator mpapazya@lausd.net.
Thursday, February 25	**Spring GATE Coordinator Virtual Office Hour** *OPTIONAL*, open to all GATE/SAS coordinators and those overseeing the administration of the OLSAT-8 who need general information. There is a separate technical training.	**Zoom:** 3:00-4:30 p.m. https://lausd.zoom.us/j/87854686693	Dr. Nicole Niederdeppe, District Coordinator nnn8729@lausd.net Wynne Wong-Cheng, District Coordinator wynne.wong@lausd.net
March 1-30	**OLSAT-8** Test administered to all second-grade students Districtwide. Schools must administer the OLSAT-8 within the specified testing window during the regular school day.	**Policy:** Memorandum: *2026-2027 OLSAT-8 Administration (pending)*	Wynne Wong-Cheng, District Coordinator wynne.wong@lausd.net
Friday, April 2	**Deadline for Assessment Packets for GATE Identification in the Intellectual Ability Category** All Los Angeles Unified schools and Affiliated Charter Schools must submit completed referrals through MiSiS prior to sending in documents, including teacher checklist and screening committee information. **IMPORTANT:** - Use the most current referral forms (Attachment E and F). - Each document must be: legible and one-sided, written in blue or black ink or typed on white paper, with no highlighted areas	**Policy:** Bulletin: *Policy for Assessing and Identifying Students for Gifted/Talented Programs* **Referral Guidelines:** Reference Guide: *Guidelines for Identifying Students as Gifted in the Intellectual Category* **Referral Templates:** Attachments in reference guide. All policy documents can be located in LAUSD'S eLibrary and under Gifted/Talented Programs website gate.lausd.org under "District Communications."	Mail referrals to your school's Designated GATE Psychologist (DGP). The list of DGP school assignments can be found in Documents under the Educator's page at gate.lausd.org.
Saturday, April 10	**18th Annual Symposium on Gifted and Talented Education**	**Register in MyPLN in March 2027:** lausd.org/mypln	Rasienna Forss, District Specialist rasienna.willars@lausd.net

Saturday, April 17	**Conservatory of Fine Arts Final Shows**	**Visual Arts**: scheduled in the Fine Arts building at California State University, Los Angeles **Performing Arts:** location TBD	Dr. Nicole Niederdeppe, District Coordinator nnn8729@lausd.net
Wednesday, April 21	**Assessment Packets for GATE Identification in the Visual and Performing Arts** All Los Angeles Unified schools and affiliated charter schools must submit completed referrals through MiSiS prior to sending in documents, including teacher checklist and screening committee information. **IMPORTANT:** - Use the most current referral forms (Attachment E and F). - Each document must be: legible and one-sided, written in blue or black ink or typed on white paper, with no highlighted areas. - Screening forms (Attachments C and D) are to be filed in the students cumulative folder and are **not** sent to Gifted/Talented Programs as part of the referral. - School staff are to distribute page 2 of Attachment E detailing the requirements of the audition/demonstration to all applicants. - Visual arts portfolios will be uploaded to a Schoology course by the student, family, or school prior to the event. Do **not** send portfolio artwork to Gifted/Talented Programs or bring it to the event.	**Policy:** Bulletin: *Policy for Assessing and Identifying Students for Gifted/Talented Programs* **Referral Guidelines:** Reference Guide: *Guidelines for Identifying Students as Gifted in the Visual and Performing Arts* **Referral Templates:** Attachments in reference guide. All policy documents can be located in LAUSD'S eLibrary and under Gifted/Talented Programs website gate.lausd.org under "District Communications."	Email scanned copies (no photographs) to GATE@lausd.net Do not hand-deliver paperwork.
Friday, May 14	**Deadline for Assessment Packets for GATE Identification in the Creative and Leadership Ability Categories** All Los Angeles Unified schools and affiliated charter schools must submit completed referrals through MiSiS prior to	**Policy:** Bulletin: *Policy for Assessing and Identifying Students for Gifted/Talented Programs* **Referral Guidelines:**	Email scanned copies of required referral forms (no photographs) along with digital versions or slide presentation of

	sending in documents/artifacts, including teacher checklist and screening committee information. **IMPORTANT:** - Use the most current referral forms (Attachments E, F, and F-1). - Each document must be: legible and one-sided, written in blue or black ink or typed on white paper, with no highlighted areas.	Reference Guide: *Guidelines for Identifying Students as Gifted in the Creative and Leadership Categories* **Referral Templates:** Attachments in reference guide. All policy documents can be located in LAUSD'S eLibrary and under Gifted/Talented Programs website gate.lausd.org under "District Communications."	artifacts to Michelle Papazyan, District Coordinator, at mpapazya@lausd.net. Do not hand-deliver paperwork.
Friday, May 14	**Deadline for Assessment Packets for GATE Identification in the High Achievement Ability and Specific Academic Ability Categories** All Los Angeles Unified schools and affiliated charter schools must submit completed referrals through MiSiS prior to sending in documents and copies of test scores, including teacher checklist and screening committee information. **IMPORTANT:** - Students whose qualifying criteria (grades, test scores) are available in MiSiS are automatically identified. - Schools should NOT submit a referral unless the student is new to the District with qualifying out-of-district test scores and/or grades. - Use the most current referral forms (Attachment E and F). - Each document must be: legible and one-sided, written in blue or black ink or typed on white paper, with no highlighted areas.	**Policy:** Bulletin: *Policy for Assessing and Identifying Students for Gifted/Talented Programs* **Referral Guidelines:** Reference Guide: *Guidelines for Identifying Students as Gifted in the High Achievement and Specific Academic Ability Categories* **Referral Templates:** Attachments in reference guide. All policy documents can be located in LAUSD'S eLibrary and under Gifted/Talented Programs website gate.lausd.org under "District Communications."	Email scanned copies of required referral forms (no photographs) along with qualifying test scores to Michelle Papazyan, District Coordinator, at mpapazya@lausd.net. Do not hand-deliver paperwork.

GIFTED/TALENTED PROGRAMS

Address: 333 S. Beaudry Ave., 25th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: (213) 241-6500

Email: GATE@lausd.net

Website: gate.lausd.org

Facebook: facebook.com/LAUSDGATE

X: x.com/LAUSDGATE

Instagram: instagram.com/lausdgate

Schoology: lms.lausd.net

GATE Educators Forum Group Access Code: R7JTC-Z9KBC
LAUSD School Site GATE Coordinators Group Access Code: BG3GF-9S98Z
Schools for Advanced Studies Group Access Code: ZHW3H-VRNWK

District Administrator	Areas of Focus	Email Address
Rasienna Forss, Specialist	Data, Choices, Professional Development, Instructional Technology, Virtual Academies, Regions West and South	rasienna.willars@lausd.net
Dr. Nicole Niederdeppe, Coordinator	Conservatory of Fine Arts, Annual GATE Report, Coordinator Differential, Parent, Family, and Community Engagement, VAPA Identification, Regions East and North	nnn8729@lausd.net
Michelle Papazyan, Coordinator	Targeted Identification Program (TIP), Propelling Academic Success in Creativity and Leadership (PASCAL), Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS), High Achievement/Specific Academic Ability Identification, Creative and Leadership Ability Identification, Small Group Trainings, summer school	mpapazya@lausd.net
Wynne Wong-Cheng, Coordinator	Intellectual Ability Identification and High Achievement-OLSAT-8 Identification, GATE Student Advisory Council (GATESAC)	wynne.wong@lausd.net

SCHOOL FISCAL SERVICES BRANCH

For specific questions regarding budget (differentials, etc.), contact Fiscal Services personnel for your Region. Please note that school GATE coordinators are to receive a semi-annual differential funded from existing school sources to be reported in January and June. Please see annual Inter-Office Correspondence for more information. The specific contact information for each Region's Fiscal Services personnel can be found at: School Fiscal Services Branch

STUDENT INTEGRATION AND STRATEGIC PROGRAM PLANNING/MAGNET PROGRAMS

Website: integration.lausd.org

Email: echoices@lausd.net

Phone: (213) 241-6532 (for school inquiries), (213) 241-4177 (for parent/family inquiries)

DESIGNATED GATE PSYCHOLOGISTS

Designated GATE Psychologists (DGPs) are a part of Gifted/Talented Programs, Advanced Learning Options (ALO). DGPs are not Region-specific. Your school's assigned DGP is provided in the Designated GATE Psychologist School Directory List, found on the Gifted/Talented Programs website, gate.lausd.org, under Educators.

CENTRAL OFFICE PAPERWORK SUBMISSION INFORMATION

GATE Referrals, Services and Programs	Contact Telephone Number/Email
- High Achievement/Specific Academic Referrals - Creative/Leadership Referrals	**(213) 241-6500** **Michelle Papazyan, District Coordinator** **mpapazya@lausd.net**
- Reassessment requests - Request for test scores	**(213) 241-6500** **Wynne Wong-Cheng, District Coordinator** **GATE@lausd.net**
- Conservatory of Fine Arts - Visual and Performing Arts Referrals: Auditions/Demonstrations	**(213) 241-6500** **Dr. Nicole Niederdeppe, District Coordinator** **nnn8729@lausd.net**

AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS

- Contact Gifted/Talented Programs at (213) 241-6500 or GATE@lausd.net to request a Fee-for-Service form.
- Submission of referrals may proceed as soon as the principal's signature is obtained.
- Include original Fee-for-Service form with the referral packet (failure to include the Fee-for-Service form will create delays in processing).
- Schools will not be billed for students who do not show for the visual or performing arts assessment, or students who are not selected or do not show for the Conservatory of Fine Arts.