

OLSAT-8 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for School Site Personnel

Why administer the OLSAT-8 Districtwide?

Universal screening is a fair and unbiased method to identify students for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) services and support. Analysis of District data indicates that this universal screening instrument is an effective GATE identification practice to address the disproportionate referral, identification, and participation of Black, Latinx, English Learner, multilingual, and low-income students.

Who will be tested?

All second-grade students will be tested, except:

- Students who take the California Alternate Assessments (CAA) or participate in an alternate curriculum
- Students previously identified as gifted in the Intellectual Ability category (optional)
- Students whose parents/guardians have requested non-participation
- Students who have previously taken the OLSAT-8
- Students who have been pre-exposed to the assessment

Can the OLSAT-8 be administered in a different language for English Learners or multilingual learners?

- Yes. Participating second-grade English Learners or multilingual learners may be given directions in their primary language.
- The test may only be administered to a student in one language, and each test item may be read only once.
- Digital copies of the Directions for Administration are available for school use in multiple languages, e.g., Spanish, Korean, Armenian, Chinese, Russian, and Tagalog.

Can students retake the OLSAT-8?

No. Students can only take the OLSAT-8 one time, or the validity of the assessment will be compromised. The District has only approved second-grade level OLSAT-8 testing currently. However, students may be referred and assessed in a different category.

How is the OLSAT-8 used to determine eligibility for High Achievement Ability?

- Students who score at an Age Percentile Rank (Age PR) of 95 or above on the Total, Verbal, or Nonverbal scales will be identified as gifted in the High Achievement Ability category.
- Students who score at an Age PR of 90 to 94 on the Total scale and who meet the federally defined poverty level (Meal Code of 1, 2, or 5 in My Integrated Student Information System/MiSiS) will be identified as gifted in the High Achievement Ability category.

Can a student be identified as highly gifted on the OLSAT-8?

No. The OLSAT-8 does not measure intellectual functioning, and therefore does not identify students as highly gifted. However, students who score an Age PR of 99 on the Total, Verbal, or Nonverbal scales require an automatic referral by the school-site GATE coordinator to be tested in the Intellectual Ability category.

What are the Spring 2025 OLSAT-8 test administration dates?

Schools may select a specific test date within one of these two windows:

- Option One: March 5-6, 2025
- Option Two: March 19-20, 2025

Is make-up testing permitted?

Yes. Make-up testing must be administered on or before March 21, 2025.

Will training be provided?

GATE and testing coordinators are required to attend the asynchronous training on My Professional Learning Network (MyPLN). If additional support is needed, an optional synchronous Q&A session is available. There will also be a virtual meeting for parents/guardians of current second-grade students. Details will be posted on the Gifted/Talented Programs website at <https://www.lausd.org/gate> and shared with families via Blackboard Connect.

Will there be an OLSAT-8 practice test available?

Yes, the OLSAT-8 practice test is an official product authorized and published by Pearson Publishing. The practice test is not scored and will not invalidate test results. Students are permitted to take the OLSAT-8 practice test an unlimited number of times before the official testing period and should be given as much help as they need to complete the questions successfully. To ensure proper preparation, the online practice test should be administered during the second week of February 2025, prior to the official test dates. This schedule allows both students and test administrators to become familiar with the online assessment format and address any questions or technical issues before the official testing window in March 2025.

Will the schools have to purchase the tests?

No. The District covers the cost of OLSAT-8 testing, including for affiliated charter schools and Virtual Academies. Independent charter school students are not eligible to be tested with the OLSAT-8.

When will schools receive the results?

Student results will be mailed directly to each school. The estimated timeframe is early May 2025. School personnel must notify parents/guardians of the results by sending home the Pearson notification cover letter, test description letter, and Student Score Report.

I received a Pearson notification cover letter template, two copies of the report, and a master list. What should I do with them?

Designated school personnel must file one copy of the report in the student's cumulative record. The other copy is sent home to parents/guardians of eligible and ineligible students, along with a copy of the Pearson notification cover letter and test description letter. The master list must be filed at the school site. It is recommended that schools maintain a master copy of all documents (e.g., Student Score Reports) for reference.

We received the score reports. Where should I look for the qualifying score?

The Total, Verbal, and Nonverbal Age PR are in the top left box of the report.

We did not receive our score reports. Who should we contact?

Contact Pearson via email at lausdgateolsat8@pearson.com (not case-sensitive).

If a student qualifies, does additional paperwork need to be submitted?

No. Students who meet the eligibility criteria for the OLSAT-8 are automatically identified through MiSiS in the High Achievement Ability category. MiSiS referral, parent/guardian consent, or other documentation are not required.

What if a student does not meet the eligibility percentage cutoff but scores in the advanced range (90–94%) in the Verbal or Nonverbal section?

These students may be considered for referral in the Intellectual Ability category. For additional information, refer to REF-5228.5, Guidelines for Identifying Students as Gifted in the Intellectual Ability Category.

How are families notified of eligibility?

Schools are required to regularly monitor their GATE roster for newly identified students. It is the school's responsibility to notify parents/guardians of the students' eligibility status for the High Achievement Ability category. Once eligible students are officially identified in MiSiS, school personnel must download GATE Notification Letters in MiSiS and distribute them to families of eligible students. Parents/guardians may also access the GATE Notification Letter in the Parent Portal.

Second graders have been identified as gifted through the OLSAT -8. Now what?

The purpose of gifted identification is to provide information that enables teachers, school staff, and families to make instructional and programming decisions to best meet the academic and social-emotional needs of students, e.g., appropriate GATE clustering, class/program placement, and differentiated instruction. Gifted students in all schools must be provided daily differentiated Tier I instruction that includes depth, complexity, novelty, and acceleration. GATE professional development opportunities, focused on equitable and effective GATE instructional practices, are posted on the Gifted/Talented Programs website at <https://www.lausd.org/gate> under Educators' Corner.