

Verification of Eligibility for Gifted Magnet and Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS)

Fall 2023

Gifted/Talented Programs & Student Integration Services
Office of the Chief of Special Education, Equity and Specialized Programs

Everything You Wanted to Know About Verification

- Why are students verified?
- How does verification work for applicants to other program types with the SAS or Gifted Magnet designation?
- How does verification work for students enrolled in District schools, non-district schools, homeschooled, or not enrolled in school?
- How do teachers determine if a student meets the four critical thinking and problem-solving skills?
- What is the Choices SAS/Gifted Magnet application/verification timeline?
- What is the verification process for late Choices applicants?
- How is verification applicable to students enrolled in K-12 District schools other than SAS or Gifted Magnet?



What are the eligibility criteria for SAS/Gifted Magnet?

What is the difference between gifted identification and verification of eligibility?

Why does LAUSD utilize a verification process?

What is the eligibility criteria for Gifted Magnet and SAS?

SAS/Gifted Magnet participants must meet <u>ONE</u> of the following eligibility criteria:

- A. Be <u>identified as gifted</u> by Los Angeles Unified in the Intellectual Ability, High Achievement Ability, Specific Academic Ability, Creative Ability or Leadership Ability category <u>OR</u>
- B. Meet the standardized <u>test score criteria</u> from the most recent year as outlined in the Choices brochure or at https://eChoices.LAUSD.net (if applicable) OR
- C. Demonstrate the ability to meet ALL FOUR <u>critical thinking and problem-solving</u> <u>skills</u> in their primary language <u>and</u> demonstrate the ability *or strong potential* to perform two years above grade level in academic subjects; SAS kindergarten applicants must also meet the SAS kindergarten-specific criteria included on the *Verification of Eligibility* (SAS Kindergarten) form

What is the difference between gifted identification and verification of eligibility?

Gifted/Talented Identification:

- Formal evaluation process conducted by Gifted/Talented Programs, Advanced Learning Options
- Allows all K-12 District schools to meet a student's needs in terms of instruction and class placement
- Valid until graduation

Verification of Eligibility for Program Participation:

- Recommendation provided by the school of attendance
- Allows Unified Enrollment to determine program eligibility for the Choices selection process
- Valid for the application year only (does not roll over from year to year)

Verification of Eligibility

- Verification is the process used to determine the program eligibility of applicants to Gifted Magnet Centers and Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) who do not meet gifted identification or test score criteria (i.e., eligibility data is not available in MiSiS)
- Verification recommendations are provided by the school of attendance based on evidence that the student does/does not meet the eligibility criteria
- If a student is applying to a new school/program (i.e., is applying to change schools) and/or matriculating from the 5th/6th or 8th grade, the student must be re-verified by the current school of attendance; this includes students who applied for Gifted Magnet and/or SAS the previous year and were verified but not selected
- Verification status does not roll over from year to year unless the applicant is formally identified as gifted <u>OR</u> if the student remains in the same school/program



How are students verified if they don't meet identification or test score criteria in MiSiS?

How are students verified?

Applicants to Gifted Magnet/SAS who are not identified as gifted or do not meet test score criteria must be <u>verified</u> as meeting four critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The verification process differs based on the applicant's current school of attendance:





Non-District Applicants



Applicants Not Enrolled in School or Homeschooled

Verification of Eligibility form is NOT required for SAS applicants currently enrolled in a District school; in **January**, the District will conduct an **online verification of eligibility process.** Verification of Eligibility form is required for SAS applicants currently enrolled in a private school, independent charter or non-LAUSD school; the form may be downloaded at https://eChoices.LAUSD.net and must be submitted, in addition to

Parents/guardians of SAS applicants who are NOT enrolled in school or are homeschooled must contact GATE@lausd.net for adjusted verification procedures by the application date.



To Verify or Not to Verify?

Is the student <u>identified as gifted</u> by LAUSD in the Intellectual Ability, High Achievement Ability, Specific Academic Ability, Creative Ability or Leadership Ability category?





For applicants to SAS (resident) and Gifted Magnet

Yes

Student does not need to be verified.

(Please note that identified students enrolled in non-district schools must submit a Verification of Eligibility form to ensure that they are included in the District database.) No

Is the student currently enrolled in an <u>LAUSD School</u> (including District Virtual Academy?)

Yes

Student does not need verification forms. Verification will be completed by the LAUSD school of attendance with an online process on the Principal's Portal in January.

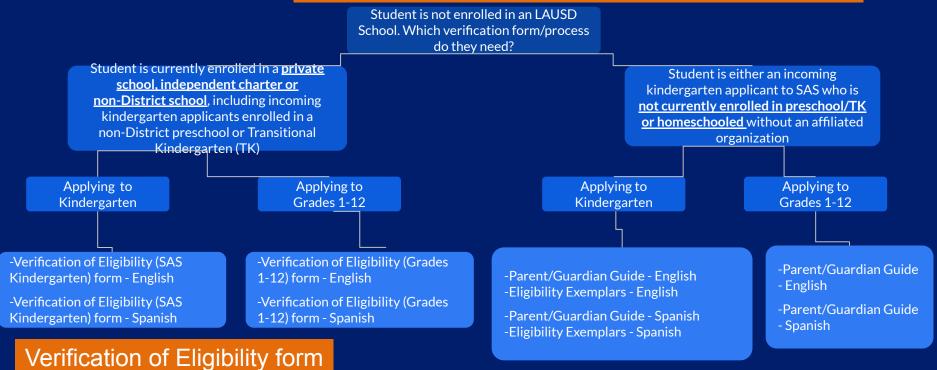
No

Student will need to be verified.

How? See next slide.



Which verification process is used for students <u>not</u> enrolled in LAUSD?



due on the application date

Parent must initiate this central verification process by the application date

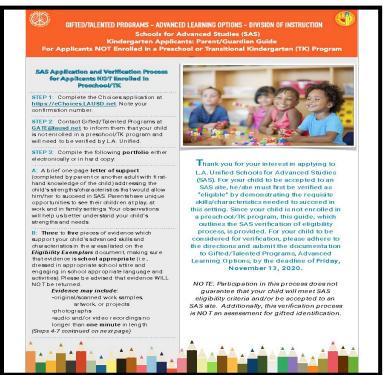


Verification for SAS/Gifted Magnet **Applicants Who Are Homeschooled or Not Enrolled in School**

Verification for Applicants NOT Currently Enrolled in School or Homeschooled Without a Verifying Organization

- A process in in place to assist District personnel in verifying the eligibility of incoming applicants to SAS who are not currently enrolled in preschool or transitional kindergarten (TK), as well as incoming applicants to SAS/Gifted Magnet who are homeschooled without a verifying organization
- Parents/guardians must review the Parent/Guardian Guide and Eligibility Exemplars (if applicable) available at https://lausd.org/gate(if applicable)
- The process includes a portfolio review and follow-up meeting (virtual or in-person) facilitated by District personnel
- The parent/guardian must **initiate the verification process**, as well as complete the **Choices application**, by **the application deadline**, to be included in the on-time Choices process
- Late inquiries or evidence will not be accepted for the on-time Choices process

SAS Applicants NOT Enrolled in PK/TK or Homeschooled without a Verifying Organization: Parent/Guardian Guide and Eligibility Exemplars







Verification Clarification for Other **LAUSD Program Types with** SAS/Gifted Magnet Designation

How Does this Work for Applicants to Affiliated Charter Schools with the SAS Designation?

- Affiliated Charter Schools with the SAS designation are <u>NOT</u> included in the District online verification process
- Affiliated Charter Schools may not request or review identification/verification information prior to student selection
- Student selection, enrollment and placement in the site's SAS gifted/talented program at Affiliated Charter Schools must be conducted in accordance with State and District legal requirements established for charter schools
- If a student is selected for a designated SAS site through this Affiliated Charter process and meets one of the SAS eligibility criteria, this student must be accommodated in the site's SAS gifted/talented program (no additional application or verification form required)
 - After selection, SAS eligibility can be determined through several sources including MiSiS (gifted identification and test scores), Unified Enrollment Portal (if student also applied to a non-charter SAS or Gifted Magnet), articulation with sending school, and/or use of the **Verification Criteria Form** (Attachment B)
- For Affiliated Charter enrollment procedures, please refer to the Affiliated Charter Schools section of the Choices brochure or <u>eChoices.lausd.net</u>.

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How Does this Work for Applicants to Other Choices Program Types with the SAS Designation?

Admission Criteria Schools (ACS)

Admission Criteria Schools with the SAS designation are <u>NOT</u> included in the District online verification process; there is currently only one ACS with the SAS designation (Dr. Richard A. Vladovic Harbor Teacher Preparation Academy)

ACS sites have their own program-specific eligibility criteria and verification process; for ACS enrollment procedures, please refer to the ACS section of the Choices brochure or <u>eChoices.lausd.net</u> or contact the school directly

Zones of Choice (ZOC)

Zones of Choice schools with the SAS designation are included in the District online verification process for students who reside within LAUSD but <u>outside</u> the ZOC

For students who reside <u>within</u> a ZOC, the 5th, 6th, or 8th grade student must select that site as their first choice during the ZOC selection process. If a student is assigned to a designated SAS site through this ZOC process and meets one of the SAS eligibility criteria, this student must be accommodated in the site's SAS gifted/talented program. The determination is made by the school after selection/acceptance, <u>NOT</u> through the online verification process.

For ZOC enrollment procedures, please contact the ZOC office at (213) 241-0466 or https://achieve.lausd.net/zoc

How Does this Work for Applicants to the Science Academy STEM Gifted/High Ability Magnet?

- Although the Science Academy STEM Gifted/High Ability Magnet is included in the Choices Gifted Magnet theme, eligibility is based on the results of the Science Academy Entrance assessment, <u>NOT</u> the District online verification process
- After the Choices application period has closed, all prospective students who submitted an application will take a mandatory assessment test, regardless of other criteria; applicants will be notified via email of their assessment day and time
- For Science Academy STEM Magnet procedures, please contact Student Integration Services (Magnet office) at echoices@lausd.net or the school

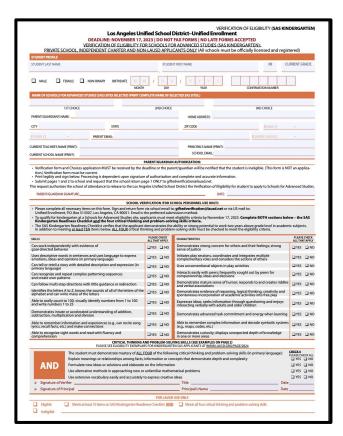


Verification for SAS/Gifted Magnet **Applicants NOT Currently Enrolled in** LAUSD

Verification for Applicants Currently Enrolled in a Non-District School

- A Verification of Eligibility form is required for applicants currently enrolled in a private school, independent charter or non-LAUSD school, including incoming kindergarten applicants enrolled in a non-LAUSD preschool or Transitional Kindergarten (TK)
- There are two versions of the form SAS Kindergarten and Grades 1-12 (available in English and Spanish)
 - The form may be downloaded at https://eChoices.LAUSD.net or printed from the link in the Choices "Print Confirmation" application receipt
- The Verification of Eligibility form must be submitted, in addition to the Choices application, by the application deadline, to be included in the on-time selection process
- Refer to https://eChoices.LAUSD.net (click "Who is eligible?) or the Choices brochure for detailed directions about submitting the form, if applicable
- Late forms will not be accepted for the on-time selection process; the recommendation

Verification of Eligibility Forms







Verification for SAS/Gifted Magnet Applicants Currently Enrolled in LAUSD

Verification for SAS/Gifted Magnet Applicants Currently Enrolled in a District School

- A Verification of Eligibility form is NOT required for applicants currently enrolled in a District school, including Virtual Academy or City of Angels Independent Study program
- From January 8-26, 2024, the District will conduct an online verification of eligibility process for current District applicants to Gifted Magnet/SAS
- Detailed directions are included in MEM-3391.18, Online Verification for Gifted Magnet and Schools for Advanced Studies Applicants
- Principals will receive an online list of Gifted Magnet/SAS applicants who do not meet gifted identification or test score criteria
 - Principals will work with the GATE coordinator and teachers to verify these applicants based on the four critical thinking and problem-solving skills criteria using the **Verification Criteria Form** (MEM-3391.18), to be filed at the school of attendance
 - The recommendation submitted by the administrator is final

The online verification process is the responsibility of <u>ALL</u> PK-11 District schools, regardless of program type.

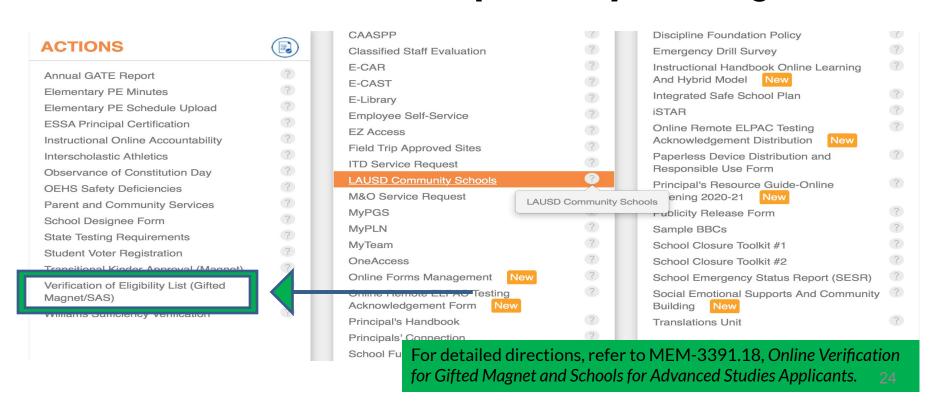
Your role is to verify the eligibility of your currently enrolled students whose parents have applied to SAS or Gifted Magnet for next year but do not have qualifying criteria in MiSiS.

You must verify if the students meet or do not meet criterion C (four critical thinking and problem-solving skills and ability or strong notential to perform above grade level)

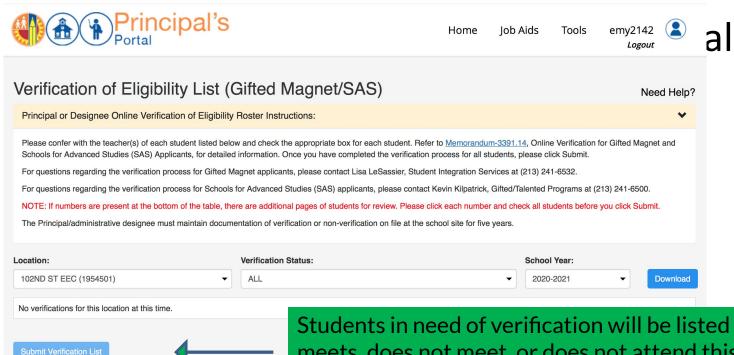
Principal's Portal

https://principalportal.lausd.net

Verification Must Be Completed by Sending School



Online Verification of Eligibility List



Return to Unified Enrollment Main Menu

Students in need of verification will be listed on this page. Click meets, does not meet, or does not attend this school. Once all students have been completed, click Submit Verification List.

Evidence-based Verification

- The administrator or GATE coordinator/designee should request that the teacher(s) complete the Verification Criteria Form (MEM-3391.18, Attachment B) based on observations and work samples
- The administrator or GATE coordinator/designee will complete the online verification of eligibility list based on this form/evidence
- File the **Verification Criteria Form** and evidence for each student



ATTACHMENT B

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDUM

VERIFICATION CRITERIA FORM To Be Completed by Current Teacher

Teacher.

The following student has applied to a Gifted Magnet Program or Schools for Advanced Studies for the 2024-2025 school year. Please complete this form and return to your administrator or designee in order to verify if the student meets the eligibility criteria. Collect and review classroom data/evidence from in-person or online instruction, as applicable (e.g., work samples, assessment results, observations during in-person or online synchronous instruction, anecdotal notes) to determine eligibility based on the criteria. Please circle Yes or No and add the student's grades from the most recent report card. Check if the student Meets or Does Not Meet and provide date and signature. Please direct questions regarding the criteria to your school's GATE coordinator.

Student

Current Grade

Teacher

Explain meanings or relationships among facts, information, or concepts that demonstrate depth and complexity.

- Analyzes similarities and differences in events, people, and things.
- Displays high-level observation skills that frequently detect fallacies and inconsistencies.
- Grasps new concepts easily; moves rapidly from familiar (concrete) to unfamiliar (abstract).
- Sees hidden meanings or cause-and-effect relationships that are not obvious.
- Analyzes and evaluates respective solutions from multiple points of view.

Formulate new ideas or solutions and elaborate on the information.

- Plans unique projects by integrating learning from different areas
- Produces detailed steps of a solution and sound reasons for them.
- Invents solutions to established problems; creates problems for which there are no apparent solutions.
- Approaches tasks in different, unusual, and original ways.

- Use alternative methods in approaching new or unfamiliar mathematical problems.
- Locates, selects, and uses relevant information and material.

File this form for each student; do not submit it to the school of choice or Unified Enrollment.



Exploring Criterion C – Four Critical Thinking and Problem–Solving Skills

Demystifying Criterion C

- How do schools verify the eligibility of students if they are not identified as gifted and do not have standardized test scores?
- What do the four critical thinking and problem-solving skills actually look like in terms of student work and behavior in the classroom?

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skill 1

Explaining meanings or relationships among facts, information or concepts that demonstrate depth and complexity:

- Analyzes similarities and differences in events, people and things
- Displays high level observation skills that frequently detect fallacies and inconsistencies
- Grasps new concepts easily; moves rapidly from familiar (concrete) to unfamiliar (abstract)
- Sees hidden meanings or cause-and-effect relationships that are not obvious
- Analyzes and evaluates respective solutions



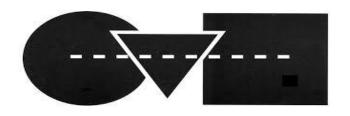


Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skill 2

Formulating new ideas or solutions and elaborates on the information:

- Plans unique projects by integrating learning from different areas
- Produces detailed steps of a solution and sound reasons for them
- •Invents solutions to established problems; creates problems to



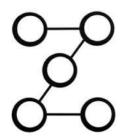


Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skill 3

Using alternative methods in approaching new or unfamiliar mathematical problems:

- Locates, selects and uses relevant information and material
- Gives examples of possible outcomes; makes "educated guesses"
- Thinks of and asks provocative questions which involve logical thinking processes
- Uses standard math processes and proficiencies such as problem-solving, abstract reasoning, constructing viable arguments, etc.
- Changes word problems into mathematical terms or formulas







Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skill (OUNGER Applicants may) 3 (cont.)

Younger applicants may demonstrate the following:

- Demonstrates keen awareness of quantitative information in the world around them
- Demonstrates pattern awareness and notices regularities in their environment
- •Shows advanced understanding of size, shape, pattern, position and direction
- Notices quantities; ability to compare quantities in real-life situations and use real and created units of measurement
- Counts, compares and uses mathematical operations during play
- Represents mathematical ideas with objects, pictures or numbers





Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skill 4

Using extensive vocabulary easily and accurately to express creative ideas:

- Demonstrates a vivid imagination in a variety of products
- Shows unusual ability to express self, feelings, concepts, etc.
- Plans and selects alternative means to demonstrate creative ideas
- Demonstrates fluent, concise and creative self-expression
- •Uses a large vocabulary in primary language
- Shows ability to "code switch" and uses language appropriate to specific disciplines, situations and audiences





Auditing Verification Evidence

- The District relies on the evidence-based verification process conducted by school site staff to ensure that students are verified with equity and validity
- There has been significant improvement in school site adherence to this process
- Should the District receive a substantiated complaint from a receiving school regarding the validity of a verification decision, the sending school may be contacted by Gifted/Talented Programs or Student Integration Services to provide evidence, including the signed Verification Criteria Form
- If it is determined that a student was inappropriately verified, this student <u>cannot</u> be removed from the school/program; however, school staff may work with the parent/guardian to determine if the current

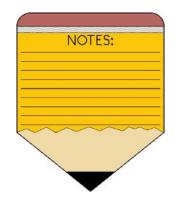
How is evidence documented during instruction (in-person and virtual)?

- Observation during class activities and assignments (formal and informal)
- Uploads/responses on online platforms (e.g., Schoology, Google Classroom)
- Assessments, work samples, audio/video files
- Anecdotal notes based on observations during in-person or virtual instruction
- Anecdotal notes from other teachers/staff during electives, extracurricular activities, clubs, etc.
- Verification Criteria Form (MEM-3391.18, Attachment B)













Application and Verification Timeline for On-Time SAS/Gifted Magnet **Applicants**

What is the application/ verification timeline?

- The on-time Choices application process for 2024-2025 enrollment is October 2, 2023 to November 17, 2023
- The online verification process is available to District principals and GATE designees from January 8-26, 2024 (after winter break)
- Please keep evidence of verification/non-verification on file (hard copy or electronic) at the school site; subject to audits
- Applicants who are not verified will be officially notified of ineligibility in February 2024 and will be removed from the on-time Choices selection process for Gifted Magnet/SAS for 2024-2025
- **Note:** Although it is not required, as a courtesy, schools may notify families of ineligible status in January, as well as share the evidence-based verification process. This allows families to apply for additional Choices schools/programs without eligibility criteria through the late application process, beginning February 1, 2024
- If an applicant is ineligible for SAS/Gifted Magnet, this will not impact on-time or late Choices applications to other programs <u>without</u> eligibility criteria
- All applicants to Gifted Magnet/SAS will receive a Program Eligibility Letter (eligibility/ineligibility) in February 2024 and a Selection/Waiting List Letter in March 2024



Application and Verification for Late SAS/Gifted Magnet Applicants

Verification for Late Choices Applicants

- The online verification process is only applicable to <u>on-time</u> Choices applicants to Gifted Magnet/SAS
- Verification is processed at the school of choice (Gifted Magnet or SAS) for students who apply through the Choices <u>late</u> application process, beginning February 1, 2024
- If the student <u>also</u> applied to a different Gifted Magnet/SAS during the on-time window, the verification information will be available in the Unified Enrollment portal
- If not, the late applicant must be verified by the school of attendance <u>if/when</u> the Gifted Magnet/SAS offers a late/waitlist seat; this is processed by the SAS or Gifted Magnet that offers the late/waitlist seat, not centrally
- The Verification of Eligibility form (eChoices) may be used for non-district applicants;
 the form may be submitted to the school of choice
- The Verification Criteria Form (MEM-3391.18, Attachment B) may be used for District applicants; the form may be filed at the school of attendance and the eligibility decision (yes/no) may be communicated to the school of choice



How is verification applicable to students enrolled in (and staying at) K-12 District schools other than SAS or Gifted Magnet?

How is verification applicable to students enrolled in schools other than SAS or Gifted Magnet?

- Teachers often ask, can we "verify" the students who are staying at our school, even if we're not an SAS or Gifted Magnet?
- Yes! We encourage all K-12 schools/programs not just SAS sites or Gifted Magnets – to use the eligibility criteria to ensure that gifted/high ability students are clustered and provided differentiated instruction
- It is best practice that all K-12 schools share the in-house **Verification Criteria Form** (MEM-3391.18, Attachment B) with teachers to ensure that non-identified students are included when making GATE clustering/placement decisions
- To ensure equitable access to GATE services and support, District educators must expand their scope of giftedness from GATE "identification" to GATE "participation" (which includes both identified and verified students)