



## Gifted/Talented Programs | Advanced Learning Options

Division of Special Education and Specialized Programs

### Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Parent/Guardian Guide

#### Verification for Kindergarten Applicants

**NOT** Enrolled in a Preschool or Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Program



**Thank you** for your interest in applying to Los Angeles Unified Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS). To be eligible for an SAS site, your child must first be verified as demonstrating the requisite skills/characteristics needed to succeed in this setting. Since your child is not enrolled in a preschool/TK program, this guide outlines the SAS verification of eligibility process. For your child to be considered for verification, please adhere to the directions and submit the portfolio to Gifted/Talented Programs, Advanced Learning Options, by the deadline of **Friday, December 5, 2025**. Submission guidelines/recommendations are explained on page 2.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Participation in this process does not guarantee that your child will meet SAS eligibility criteria and/or be accepted to an SAS site. Additionally, this verification process is NOT an assessment for gifted identification.

#### SAS Application and Verification Process for Applicants NOT Enrolled in Preschool/TK

**STEP 1:** Go to the Choices application at **Choices.LAUSD.net**. Select **Apply Now** and complete the application. Note your Confirmation Number/Application ID.

**STEP 2:** Email Gifted/Talented Programs at **GATE@lausd.net** by **Friday, November 14, 2025**.

Include in the subject line:

- SAS Kindergarten: [Student Name], [Confirmation Number/Application ID]

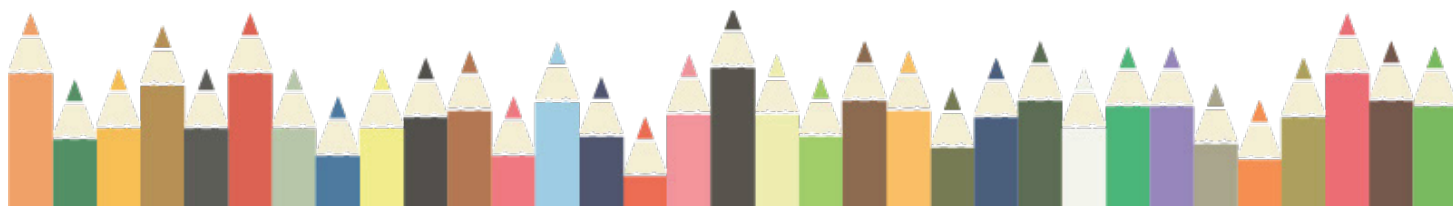
Indicate that your child is not enrolled in a preschool/TK program and will need to be verified by Los Angeles Unified personnel.

**STEP 3:** Compile the following **portfolio**:

**A:** A one-page **letter of support** (completed by parent/guardian or another adult with firsthand knowledge of the child) addressing the skills and characteristics that would allow your child to succeed in SAS. Parents/guardians have unique opportunities to see their children at play, at work and in family settings. Your observations will help us better understand your child's strengths. Please include student name, Confirmation Number/Application ID, incoming grade, parent/guardian name and email in your letter.

**B: Five pieces of evidence** (in primary language) which support your child's advanced skills and characteristics in the areas listed on the **Eligibility Exemplars** document. Evidence may include: work samples (e.g., writing, math, art, projects), photographs, audio/video recordings (one minute maximum) to illustrate the critical thinking and problem-solving skills outlined in the Eligibility Exemplars document.

*(Steps 4-7 continued on next page)*





## Gifted/Talented Programs | Advanced Learning Options

Division of Special Education and Specialized Programs

### Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Parent/Guardian Guide

#### Verification for Kindergarten Applicants

NOT Enrolled in a Preschool or Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Program

#### SAS Application and Verification Process for Applicants NOT Enrolled in Preschool/TK

**STEP 4:** Email **OR** mail the portfolio to:

**Email:** [GATE@lausd.net](mailto:GATE@lausd.net)

Subject Line: SAS Kindergarten, [Student's First/Last Name], [Confirmation Number/Application ID]

**EMAIL IS PREFERRED:** A receipt will be sent for portfolios emailed to [GATE@lausd.net](mailto:GATE@lausd.net).

No receipt will be provided for portfolios sent via U.S. mail.

**OR**

**Mail:** Gifted/Talented Programs  
Advanced Learning Options  
**Attention:** SAS Kindergarten  
333 S. Beaudry Ave., 25th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

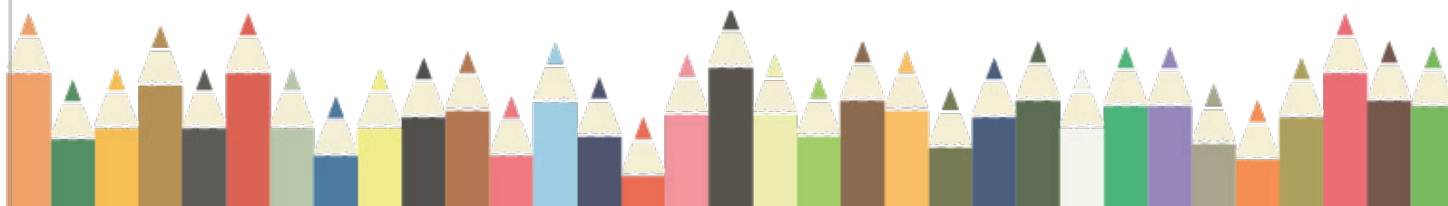
**THE PORTFOLIO MUST BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY (OR POSTMARKED) BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025.**

**STEP 5:** Between December 2025 and January 2026, a brief follow-up meeting (virtual or in-person) with you and your child may be scheduled if additional information is needed. If needed, the follow-up will be approximately 15 minutes and conducted by two members of the District's Gifted/Talented Programs staff.

**STEP 6:** The District Review Team will consider the **letter of support, 5 pieces of evidence**, and **follow-up meeting (if applicable)** to determine if Kindergarten SAS Eligibility Criteria 1 (page 3) and Kindergarten SAS Eligibility Criteria 2 (page 4) have been met.

**STEP 7:** In February 2026, you will receive a Program Eligibility Letter from LAUSD Choices notifying you if your child has met SAS Kindergarten Eligibility Criteria. **All decisions are final.** Eligible applicants will be included in the SAS selection process if a Choices application was submitted by the deadline. In March 2026, you will receive a Selection/Waiting List Letter.

**The following two pages include the SAS Kindergarten Eligibility Criteria for your reference.**





## **Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Parent/Guardian Guide**

### **Verification for Kindergarten Applicants**

**NOT Enrolled in a Preschool or Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Program**

### **SAS Kindergarten Eligibility Criteria 1: SAS Kindergarten Readiness Checklist**

This verifies that your child demonstrates the ability or strong potential to work two years above grade level in academic subjects. At least **TEN** of the **TWENTY** skills and characteristics listed below must be met:

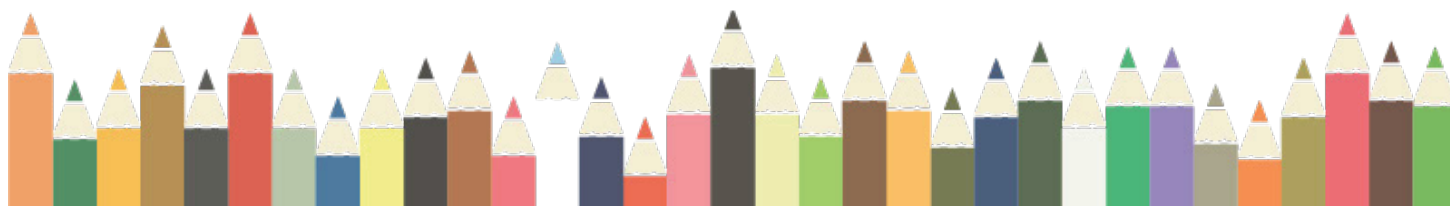
#### **SAS Kindergarten Readiness Checklist** **Skills and Characteristics**

1. Works independently with evidence of goal-directed behavior
2. Uses descriptive words in sentences and uses language to express emotion, ideas, and opinions (in primary language)
3. Tells or retells a story with detailed description and expression
4. Recognizes and repeats complex patterning sequences and creates their own patterns
5. Follows multi-step directions with little guidance or redirection
6. Identifies the letters A to Z, knows the sounds of all of the letters of the alphabet and writes many of the letters
7. Counts aloud to 100, visually identifies numbers 1 to 100 and writes numbers 1 to 25
8. Demonstrates innate or accelerated understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
9. Remembers information and experiences (e.g., recites song lyrics, recalls facts, etc.) and makes connections
10. Recognizes sight words and reads with fluency and comprehension
11. Demonstrates strong concern for others and their feelings and/or has a strong sense of justice
12. Initiates play sessions, coordinates and integrates multiple complementary roles and considers the actions of others
13. Uses unconventional objects in play activities
14. Interacts easily with peers; is frequently sought out by peers for companionships, ideas and decisions

#### **SAS Kindergarten Verification of Eligibility** **Criteria 1 and Criteria 2**

SAS Kindergarten applicants must meet **both** of the following eligibility criteria – SAS Kindergarten Eligibility Criteria 1 (SAS Kindergarten Readiness Checklist) and SAS Kindergarten Eligibility Criteria 2 (Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills). For the current application period, you will be asked to submit a portfolio of five items which reflects your child's advanced skills and characteristics. These items may reflect any of the skills listed here. Please refer to the *Eligibility Exemplars* for portfolio ideas. The *Eligibility Exemplars* document is not comprehensive, and you may create your own portfolio items that are not on the list. Please note that each piece of evidence (e.g., work sample, audio/video recording) may demonstrate multiple skills, characteristics and critical thinking/problem-solving skills. Consideration for a student's primary language is always a priority.

15. Demonstrates a mature sense of humor; responds to and creates riddles and verbal associations
16. Demonstrates evidence of reasoning, logical thinking, creativity and spontaneous incorporation of academic activities into free play
17. Expresses ideas, seeks information through questioning and enjoys interacting verbally with adults and older children
18. Demonstrates advanced task commitment and energy when learning.
19. Remembers complex information and decodes symbolic systems (e.g., maps, codes, etc.)
20. Demonstrates curiosity; displays unexpected depth of knowledge in one or more areas





## Gifted/Talented Programs | Advanced Learning Options

Division of Special Education and Specialized Programs

### Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) Parent/Guardian Guide

#### Verification for Kindergarten Applicants

**NOT** Enrolled in a Preschool or Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Program

**AND**

#### SAS Kindergarten Eligibility Criteria 2: Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills

In addition to Eligibility Criteria 1, your child must meet **ALL FOUR** of the following critical thinking and problem-solving skills in their **primary language**.

1. Explains meanings or relationships among facts, information or concepts that demonstrate depth and complexity
2. Formulates new ideas or solutions and elaborates on the information
3. Uses alternative methods in approaching new or unfamiliar mathematical problems
4. Uses extensive vocabulary easily and accurately to express creative ideas

Please see **Eligibility Exemplars** for clarifying examples of age-appropriate evidence

**To be verified as eligible for SAS  
Kindergarten, both Criteria 1 AND Criteria 2  
must be met.**

