



Gifted/Talented Programs | Advanced Learning Options

Division of Special Education and Specialized Programs

Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS)/Gifted Magnet Parent/Guardian Guide Verification for Applicants Enrolled in an In-Home Private School NOT Affiliated with an Organization

Thank you for your interest in applying to Los Angeles Unified Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) and/or Gifted Magnets. To be eligible for an SAS or Gifted Magnet, your child must first be verified as demonstrating mastery of all four critical thinking and problem-solving skills (in primary language) as well as the ability or strong potential to work two years above grade level in academic subjects.

This guide outlines the verification of eligibility process for applicants enrolled in an in-home private school who do not have an educational organization to complete or sign the Verification of Eligibility form. For your child to be considered for verification of eligibility, please adhere to the directions and submit the portfolio to Gifted/ Talented Programs, Advanced Learning Options, by the deadline of **Friday, December 5, 2025**.

Please Note: Participation in this process does not guarantee that your child will meet SAS/Gifted Magnet eligibility criteria and/or be accepted to a program. Additionally, this verification process is NOT an assessment for gifted identification.



SAS/Gifted Magnet Application and Verification Process for Applicants Enrolled in an In-Home Private School NOT Affiliated with an Organization

STEPS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

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/ Gifted Magnet Applicant Enrolled in an In-Home Private School Verification, [Student's First/Last Name], [Confirmation/Application ID Number]. Indicate that your child is enrolled in an in-home private school and does not have an organization to complete the verification process and will need to be reviewed for verification of eligibility 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 first-hand knowledge of the child) addressing the four critical thinking and problem-solving skills that would allow your child to succeed in an SAS/Gifted Magnet. 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's first/last name, confirmation/application ID, incoming grade, parent/guardian name and email in your letter.

B: Five pieces of evidence which support your child's advanced skills and characteristics in accordance with the four critical thinking and problem-solving skills criteria.

Evidence may include: work samples (e.g., writing, math, art, projects), photographs, and video recordings (one minute maximum) to illustrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills outlined on page 3 of this document. Evidence reflecting the student's primary language is encouraged.





Gifted/Talented Programs | Advanced Learning Options

Division of Special Education and Specialized Programs

Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS)/Gifted Magnet Parent/Guardian Guide Verification for Applicants Enrolled in an In-Home Private School NOT Affiliated with an Organization

SAS/Gifted Magnet Application and Verification Process for Applicants Enrolled in an In-Home Private School NOT Affiliated with an Organization

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

Email: **GATE@lausd.net**

Subject Line: SAS/Gifted Magnet Applicant Enrolled in an In-Home Private School Verification, [Student's First/Last Name], [Confirmation/Application ID Number]

EMAIL IS PREFERRED. A receipt will be sent for portfolios that are emailed to 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/Gifted Magnet Applicant Enrolled in an In-Home Private School Verification
333 S. Beaudry Ave., 25th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90017

The portfolio must be received electronically (or postmarked) by Friday, December 5, 2025.

PLEASE NOTE: SUBMISSION OF THE PORTFOLIO IS THE PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THE APPLICANT IS LEGALLY ENROLLED IN AN IN-HOME PRIVATE SCHOOL (I.E., PRIVATE SCHOOL AFFIDAVIT IS FILED WITH CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION).

STEP 5: Between December 2025 and January 2026, a brief follow-up meeting (virtual or in-person) with the student may be scheduled if additional information is needed. The follow-up will be approximately 15 minutes in length 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 SAS/Gifted Magnet Eligibility Criteria (i.e., four critical thinking and problem-solving skills AND ability or strong potential to work two years above grade level) has 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/Gifted Magnet Program Eligibility Criteria. All decisions are final. Eligible applicants will be included in the SAS/Gifted Magnet selection process if a Choices application was submitted by the deadline. In March 2026, you will receive a Selection/Waiting List Letter.

Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) and Gifted Magnet Eligibility Criteria

The student must demonstrate the ability to meet **ALL FOUR** critical thinking and problem-solving skills in their **primary language** AND demonstrate the ability or **strong potential** to perform two years above grade level in academic subjects by:

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



**Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS)/Gifted Magnet
Parent/Guardian Guide
Verification for Applicants Enrolled in an
In-Home Private School
NOT Affiliated with an Organization**

Eligibility Criteria Exemplars

The portfolio of evidence must include items that allow the District Review Team to determine whether or not the applicant meets **ALL FOUR** of the following critical thinking and problem solving skills **AND** demonstrates the ability or strong potential to perform two years above grade level in academic subjects. Evidence reflecting the student's primary language is encouraged.

1. Explains 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 and frequently detects 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

2. Formulates 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 for which there are no apparent solutions
- Approaches tasks in different, unusual and original ways

3. Uses 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

4. Uses 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 methods to demonstrate creative ideas
- Demonstrates creative self-expression
- Uses a large vocabulary in primary language (verbally or in writing)
- Shows ability to "code switch" and uses language appropriate to specific disciplines, situations and audiences