


INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of the Chief of Special Education, Equity and Specialized Programs
Gifted/Talented Programs | Advanced Learning Options

TO: Principals

DATE: January 26, 2024

FROM: Anthony Aguilar, 
Chief of Special Education, Equity and Specialized Programs

Erin Yoshida-Ehrmann 
Director
Gifted/Talented Programs, Advanced Learning Options

**SUBJECT: FUNDING TO SUPPORT GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE)
COORDINATOR DIFFERENTIAL**

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide guidance for the reporting of the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) coordinator differential. District policy requires each principal to allocate school funds to support a differential for the GATE coordinator. GATE coordinator responsibilities explicitly address and support measures of success outlined in the Los Angeles Unified 2022-26 Strategic Plan:

- Increase the districtwide percentage of students identified for gifted/talented education programs to 14.8% by 2026 (Pillar 1B)
- Increase enrollment in thematic and choice learning options to at least 65% of all students by 2026 (Pillar 4D)

The GATE coordinator differential must be reported twice annually, in January and June. Preschools, continuation schools, and centers (special education and primary) without a GATE program are exempt. Additionally, administrators or teachers who are already receiving another type of differential are ineligible for the GATE coordinator differential and should be compensated as appropriate.

It is the District's position that the GATE coordinator is integral to ensuring that identified and verified gifted/talented learners, including students from underrepresented groups, receive equitable and high-quality GATE support and services at each school site. Responsibilities of a school site GATE coordinator include, but are not limited to:

- Establishing a Local School GATE Screening Committee and managing all aspects of the gifted/talented identification process to ensure equitable program access for all cultural and linguistic groups, i.e., working toward a minimum 13.6% gifted identification in 2023-24 across all ethnic groups, per the Strategic Plan, and ensuring that GATE identification and participation proportionately reflect the demographics of the school
- Assisting site administrator in the development of a differentiated GATE instructional program, including the clustering and placement of gifted/talented students, based on assessment of student needs and analysis of data
- Attending regularly scheduled GATE coordinator meetings, professional development, workshops, and conferences

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- Disseminating information regarding school site and District-sponsored GATE professional development workshops and conferences for staff and families, providing school-level GATE professional development, and maintaining documentation of professional growth for all teachers of gifted learners
- Conducting at least two school site GATE parent/family meetings annually, either virtually or in-person
- Maintaining a GATE student roster at the local school by accessing GATE data in District data systems, including MiSiS
- Completing the online GATE verification of eligibility process annually in the Principal's Portal
- Collaborating with staff and GATE parent representative to complete and submit the online Annual GATE Report in the Principal's Portal for all campus cost centers (spring semester)

Additional responsibilities of a school site GATE coordinator at designated Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) include, but are not limited to:

- Coordinating all SAS marketing, virtual/in-person tours, and prospective student/family meetings
- Conducting school site Unified Enrollment/Choices processes in the Principal's Portal, e.g., enrollment capacity, accept/decline process, waitlist management, and parent/guardian notification protocols
- Reporting SAS student participation annually in MiSiS
- Ensuring that all SAS teachers meet annual GATE professional development requirements
- Maintaining "exemplary" Annual GATE Report status, including retaining records of GATE implementation for five-year SAS application and designation cycle

GATE program funding is included in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which replaced previously existing K-12 state-level funding streams, including per-pupil funding for gifted learners.

Schools do not receive specific funds to support the school site GATE coordinator or GATE program; the differential must be allocated from existing school site funds.

For further information about reporting differentials, refer to District communication, REF-1802.20 *Time Reporting Instructions for Lump Sum Payment of Differentials*, dated February 27, 2023. Please use Wage Type 1310 to properly allocate local funds toward a GATE coordinator differential. **Given that the GATE differential (\$784 per semester, including benefits) must be funded from existing school site funds, schools must identify the budget item, commitment item, and class code for payment.**

Should you need guidance and support, please contact your Regional Fiscal Specialist or Gifted/Talented Programs at GATE@lausd.net.

c: Karla Estrada, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction
Regional Superintendents
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Community of Schools Administrators
Tony Atienza, Director, Budget Services and Financial Planning