



ACADEMIC OFFICE
Gifted and Talented Education

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

To ensure equity among students, all 1st grade students in the Sacramento City Unified School District will be screened for **possible** Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) services identification. The district utilizes the Naglieri Non-Verbal Ability Test, version 2 (NNAT2) as the initial screening tool in the GATE Identification process. The assessment will be administered in all 1st grade classrooms between **January 17th and February 17th, 2017**.

The NNAT2 assessment will be administered by your child's classroom teacher and completed using paper booklets and pencils. It is a timed multiple choice assessment and takes approximately 45 minutes to complete, however the specific working time of the test is 30 minutes. Time is allocated for distribution of test booklets, pencils, to present the test directions and for students to complete the sample exercises. Teachers are trained in test administration.

The NNAT2 is a non-verbal assessment of general cognitive ability without reliance on language or motor skills. It measures reasoning and problem solving progressive matrices with shapes and designs that are not unique to any cultural group. The NNAT2 is an abilities test and not an achievement test. Unlike achievement tests, the NNAT2 does not measure how much a student has learned, but focuses instead on a student's ability to display cognitive abilities that research have associated with academic success.

The publishers of the assessment score the tests and provide information to be used by both parents and teachers. The information you will receive regarding your child's scores may help you to better understand your child's performance. All families will be notified of their child's assessment screening results.

If you choose **not** to have your child participate, you may obtain the *Request to Not Participate in First Grade Universal GATE Screening* form from your child's school office. Return this form directly to the GATE Department by January 9th. No forms will be accepted after that date.

Tip for the test: Please allow your child to take this test with no stress and do not announce that this is the GATE Test. GATE screening is **only one way** that this data is used, and GATE Identification is based on multiple criteria. **Proctors will explain that "the test gives adults information about how the students think and why they find some things easy and some things more difficult."** Children usually enjoy the testing activities because they are more like puzzles.

Additional information about the SCUSD GATE Program and Services are available at the district's GATE website: www.scusd.edu/gate. You may also contact the GATE Department at (916) 643-2348.

Sincerely,

Kari Hanson-Smith, Coordinator GATE & AP Programs