



Westlake Charter School

Expanding Opportunities... Connecting Children to the World!

HOW ARE STUDENTS IDENTIFIED FOR GATE?

Because students have a wide variety of “gifts” and “talents” the identification process considers the following categories (which the State of California also recognizes) to determine eligibility:

- Intellectual Ability: The student demonstrates extraordinary intellectual development.
- Creative Ability: The student perceives unusual relationships in the environment and among ideas. He/she overcomes obstacles to thinking. The student produces unique solutions to problems.
- Specific Academic Ability: The student functions at highly advanced academic levels in particular subject areas.
- Leadership Ability: The student demonstrates behaviors necessary for extraordinary leadership.
- High Achievement: The student consistently produces advanced ideas and products and/or attains exceptionally high scores on achievement tests.
- Visual and Performing Arts Talent: The student originates, performs, produces, or responds at extraordinarily high levels in the arts.

Westlake Charter School recognizes that ability and talent may occur across multiple domains (ex: student excels in many academic subjects) or one domain (ex: student who excels at math). Regardless of how broad or narrow a student’s giftedness may be, teachers strive to challenge students in the areas they are intellectually and developmentally ready to delve more deeply into curriculum and concepts than typically developing peers.

How does the GATE program assess students?

Formal assessment and identification of students begins in the winter/spring of each school year. Students may be referred for assessment in grades 1st grade through 8th grade. Students can be referred by parents, teachers, and administrators for participation and can be referred on the basis of intellectual ability, high achievement, creativity, leadership skills, and/or artistic talent. The referral deadlines will be determined and posted on the school website. All student referral forms returned before the deadline will be considered for eligibility. The school uses a GATE Assessment Review Team, whose members may include teachers, administrators, counselors, and the GATE Coordinator. GATE Assessment Review Teams meet to review referrals for GATE identification and to make a determination of eligibility. Multiple sources of evidence for giftedness are used to determine eligibility. Transfer students whose cumulative files indicate that they were found to be GATE eligible in a previous District are reviewed for GATE eligibility based on the school’s identification criteria. Parents and teachers are informed of the decision regarding their student’s eligibility within 90 days of formal assessment.

What general identification criteria are used?

The formal GATE identification process begins with testing of students through a referral process. Students referred take the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test- Second Edition (NNAT2) in the spring. A consent form will be provided to parents to provide an opportunity to decline testing. Any student scoring in the 90th+ percentile on the NNAT2 will meet the eligibility criteria for GATE. Parents may request to have their student reassessed once every two years, in the spring.