



P.O. Box 4768, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

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September 2021

Dear Blue Oak Elementary Parents,

The Buckeye Union School District will be conducting assessments of students, in October, to determine GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) eligibility. Although the program opportunities for GATE students are limited as the State provides little funding for GATE, the Buckeye Union School District is continuing its process of identification and, for those that qualify, some opportunities for enrichment/support in and out of the classroom continue to be provided.

We are currently actively recruiting a GATE program leader for Blue Oak. Program support at Blue Oak will be dependent on if we are able to find a teacher to take on this position.

In order for a student to qualify for GATE they must take the OLSAT (Otis Lennon School Ability Test) which measures the cognitive skills that relate to a student's ability to learn and succeed in school and examines both verbal and nonverbal abilities. A student needs to score in the 95th percentile on the OLSAT in order to qualify for GATE. This means that only approximately 5 of every 100 students taking the OLSAT will be GATE identified. The OLSAT exam will be offered at Blue Oak Elementary School during the school day, **October 18, 2021**, and will take approximately 1 hour.

In the past, students have been qualified to take the OLSAT exam by either a high score in the advanced range of a state standardized test or through a teacher recommendation process. Currently, the OLSAT assessment is open for students to take based on parent recommendation and student interest. When determining whether or not your child should take this rigorous test please consider the following guidelines:

- Does your child appear to have exceptionally strong intellectual skills for a student their age?
- Have teachers previously reported to you that your child demonstrates exceptionally well developed intellectual skills?

If the answer to one or both of these questions is yes, then they may be a good candidate for participating.

If your student participates and performs in the top 5%ile, on the OLSAT, they will be identified as GATE eligible and will receive further communication from your school site regarding enrichments and supports that are offered.

If you would like to have your child take the OLSAT test please complete the attached permission form and return it to your school by **September 30, 2021**. If there are any questions about whether to permit your child to participate in the OLSAT exam, please contact your student's teacher or site principal.

Sincerely,
Melinda Spooner
GATE Coordinator



I give permission to have my child evaluated for potential placement in the GATE program. I understand that I will be informed of the assessment results when they are available.

Full Name of Student

Date of Birth

Home Phone

Street Address

City, State, Zip

School

Teacher Name

Date

Signature of Parent of Guardian