

**Blaine County School District #61
Gifted & Talented Education (GATE)
Identification & Eligibility**

Guiding Principles

The Blaine County School District follows the state of Idaho's Gifted and Talented Rules and Regulations (IDAPA 08.02.03.171) when identifying gifted and talented students for the GATE Program. The District's GATE identification and placement process includes screening and assessment practices. Identification and placement are not based on a single criterion. The District's identification process uses multiple indicators to obtain information about students. Both formal and informal assessments and information from multiple sources (known as the body of evidence) are used to document the substantial exceptional ability and achievement of students in determining GATE eligibility.

The assessment tools used to collect the body of evidence vary. These tools collect both formal and informal data and examine cognitive ability and academic achievement, as well as gifted characteristics. These tools may include, but are not limited to: screening instruments, group tests, individualized tests, observations, checklists, rating scales, questionnaires, interviews, and work samples.

The District's GATE identification and qualification process reflects the federal definition of children with outstanding talent.

There are four parts of the Identification and Eligibility Process:

1. Screening & Data Collection
2. Referral & Consent
3. Phase 1 Assessment
4. Phase 2 Eligibility Determination – Automatic Qualification or Eligibility Determination Team Decision

Part 1: Screening & Data Collection

The district administers the CogAT 7 Screener to all 2nd-grade students. Testing occurs in January.

Part 2: Referral & Parent Consent

Referral for assessment may be done through screening, a student's teacher, or a parent. If a teacher or parent is making the referral, a referral form is available for the teacher or parent to complete and return to the GATE facilitator. The referral forms are kept with the GATE facilitator at each school.

A team of district employees, which may include the teacher, gifted and talented instructor, principal, counselor, and other applicable members, meets to review referral paperwork, grade level benchmarking, and other applicable data to determine if a student moves onto testing at this time.

If the decision is made to test, continue the procedure. If not, contact parents to explain.

Permission to Test - If testing is recommended by the team, a permission form will be sent home to parents so that testing may begin.

After it is determined that a student will be tested, a Parent Consent and Questionnaire for GATE Assessment is sent to the parents by the GATE Facilitator. It is required to be signed and returned before the assessment.

Part 3: Phase 1 Assessment

The assessment process begins with the Cognitive Abilities Test-Form 7 (CogAT 7) and a standardized academic achievement assessment.

Part 4: Phase 2 Eligibility Determination (Automatic Qualification or Team Decision)

1. Automatic:

There are two ways that students may automatically qualify for the GATE Program:

- 1) Intellectual - CogAT 7 Composite Score (with other supporting evidence):
 - 98th percentile or
 - 95th percentile for students identified as an ELL (English Language Learner) or with a recognized disability, evidenced by an IEP or 504 plan, and for economically disadvantaged students.
- 2) Specific Academic-Achievement Broad Score (with other supporting evidence):
 - 98th percentile on at least one broad score
 - 95th percentile on at least one broad score for students identified as an ELL (English Language Learner) or with a recognized disability evidenced by an IEP or 504 plan, and for students who are economically disadvantaged or homeless.

2. Eligibility Determination through a Team:

If the student's scores are close to qualifying (within .5 standard deviations) but do not meet the automatic qualification criteria, **then** the student's profile (body of evidence) is reviewed by the district Eligibility Determination Team (EDT). The EDT may include some or all of the following: GATE Facilitators, teacher representative(s), school psychologist, ELD Specialist/DI Spanish teacher, and GATE Program Supervisor(s). This team will review the evidence within the student's profile to determine eligibility or request further testing and additional evidence.

Parents may request a meeting to inform them of the eligibility determination decision. If the student is determined to be eligible, the student will be placed into the GATE Program.