

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJSUD) is located in the suburban community of Livermore about 45 miles east of San Francisco in Alameda County. Livermore's current population is just over 80,000 nestled within 43 square miles centrally located in the Livermore-Amador Valley. LVJUSD serves about 12,000 students in Kindergarten through 12th grade in eight elementary schools, two K-8 schools, two middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, and two alternative schools. Our demographics reflect an increasing diversification of ethnicities.

The LVJUSD Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program consists of about 1,150 students in grades three through twelve. The program uses a Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) program model that provides, under a district-coordinated umbrella, a wide range of site-specific direct services customized to meet individual student needs. Each year, the School Site Council from each of our schools develops a Single Plan for Student Achievement that evaluates existing practices and services.

The LVJUSD Advisory Committee, consisting of site teacher liaisons and parent representatives, meets at least six times annually to support district and site-managed programs in accordance to our GATE Plan. The Committee evaluates the GATE Plan each year and establishes priorities to guide program implementation at each site in accordance with current practices and research.

2017-2018 GATE Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Tues., August 29 @ 3:30-5:00 PM, District Office Board Room

Tues., September 26 @ 3:30-5:00 PM, District Office Board Room

Tues., October 24 @ 3:30-5:00 PM, District Office Board Room

Tues., December 5 @ 3:30-5:00 PM, District Office Board Room

Tues., January 23 @ 3:30-5:00 PM, District Office Board Room

Tues., March 27 @ 3:30-5:00 PM, District Office Board Room

Tues., April 24 @ 3:30-5:00 PM, District Office Board Room

Tues., May 22 @ 3:30-5:00 PM, District Office Board Room

The GATE Program exists to identify and enrich the educational experiences of students who exhibit a potential for exceptional abilities and talents. LVJUSD employs a variety of measure to identify gifted students to ensure equal access to program services. Informal identification begins in Kindergarten to second grade as teachers, parents, and administrators look for students who display key characteristics of giftedness. Formal identification begins in third grade when all third graders are assessed. Fourth through to twelfth grade students are voluntarily nominated and assessed using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). Special efforts are made to identify students traditionally underrepresented.

GATE students need challenges beyond those normally provided in order to reach their full potential. Our site-managed program is cohesive and provides a spectrum of services to meet the intellectual needs of our students while supporting their social and emotional development. At the elementary level, cluster groups of gifted students receive a differentiated curriculum and quality instruction that extends beyond the core curriculum through tiered assignments and learning opportunities characterized by depth, complexity, novelty, and acceleration. Gifted students also participate in supplemental after-school enrichment programs as well as district, county, and statewide special events and competitions. The middle school differentiated program offers honors classes, accelerated classes, concurrent high school enrollment, and academic clubs and competitions. Our elective and extracurricular offerings extend and enhance to include technology, visual and performing arts, and leadership classes. At the high school level, students needs are met through flexible ability grouping, clustering, acceleration, honors classes, advanced placement classes, concurrent enrollment in Las Positas Community College, and academic clubs and competitions. GATE students receive specialized college and career counseling.

Communication is paramount to the successful implementation of the GATE Plan. The LVJUSD website contains current and detailed information on many aspects of gifted and talented education in the district. Parents are active members of the GATE Advisory Committee, School Site Councils, and school site GATE committees. Available to parents is a brochure, in English and Spanish, describing the characteristics of the gifted child, the nomination and identification process, and components of differentiated instruction.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

In accordance with the Education Code (Section 52200c), programs for gifted and talented students should include;

- differentiated opportunities for learning commensurate with the gifted and talented student's particular abilities and talents
- alternative learning environments in which gifted and talented students can acquire skills and understand at advanced ideological and creative levels commensurate with their potentials
- elements that help gifted and talented students develop sensitivity and responsibility to others
- elements that help to develop a commitment in gifted and talented students to constructive ethical standards
- elements that assist gifted and talented students to develop self-generating problem solving abilities to expand each student's awareness of choices for satisfying contributions to his/her environment
- elements that help gifted and talented students develop a realistic and healthy self-concept

At LVJUSD, GATE students receive a rigorous, standards-based curriculum that meet and exceed the California Content Standards. Differentiated opportunities for learning commensurate with the gifted student's unique abilities and talents may include the following:

Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DEPTH ■ COMPLEXITY ■ NOVELTY ■ ACCELERATION ■ Compacting ■ Clustering ■ Independent Study ■ After-school Enrichment Programs ■ District-wide Socials
Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DEPTH ■ COMPLEXITY ■ NOVELTY ■ ACCELERATION ■ Compacting ■ Clustering ■ Independent Study ■ Honors Classes ■ Concurrent Enrollment in High School
High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DEPTH ■ COMPLEXITY ■ NOVELTY ■ ACCELERATION ■ Compacting ■ Clustering ■ Independent Study ■ Honors Classes ■ Advance Placement Classes ■ Concurrent Enrollment in College ■