

# Gifted and Talented (GATE)

**Program:** Gifted and Talented (GATE) instruction is intended to enrich your child's education beyond the scope of the regular curriculum by participation in a wide variety of academic endeavors and hands-on learning experiences. GATE students will meet with the Gifted and Talented (GATE) teacher approximately once a week in a five-day cycle. Students will be responsible for work assigned during the regular education class. Students will be evaluated throughout the year and at the conclusion of each year to determine if continuation is warranted. Eligibility will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Also, students will have the opportunity to work with our GATE teacher during BEAR time. BEAR time is a period built into the district's schedule to provide further support to students who may be struggling as well as excelling. Our gifted and talented teacher's schedule is aligned with each grade level's BEAR time two to three times per week. This allows for more enrichment time for our gifted and talented students. The purpose is to further strengthen our gifted and talented program as BEAR time allows our gifted students to be challenged in a variety of academic areas.

## **Twice Exceptional Learners:**

Twice Exceptional Learners are students that are gifted children of above-average abilities who also have special educational needs. Because their giftedness can mask their special needs and their special needs can hide their giftedness, BES recognizes the importance of identifying and servicing this often underrepresented group. These types of contradictions may be indicators of possible twice-exceptionality. BES will include all children.

**Screening:** Identification of the academically gifted student is based on scholastic aptitude, academic achievement, and attitude towards learning. Identification procedures include teacher observation, standardized achievement/aptitude tests scores, classroom performance, parent input, and end-of-year classroom assessments. The screening process is broken down into three steps. The following steps include:

## **Step I. Preliminary Insight Test Scores**

Candidates' scores on preliminary tests are reviewed and compared to their local district peers, quotients are weighted to find them:

- GI Test Scores - Gifted Indicator Scores
- IAS Test Scores - General Intelligence Scores

## **Step II-A. EOY Assessment Scores**

Candidates' scores are reviewed and compared to their local district peers:

- End of year math assessment.
- End of year reading assessment.

### **Step II-B. Report Cards**

Candidates' scores are reviewed and compared to their local district peers:

- Report Cards Overall Grades and Effort

### **Step II. Subjective Data**

#### ***A. Teacher Assessment of Learning and Behavioral Characteristics***

1. Scales describing the student's learning/behavioral characteristics are completed by a teacher who is well-acquainted with the child, typically the current or (if early in the school year) previous homeroom teacher.
2. These scales are evaluated according to preset criteria and assigned points for a preliminary decision on the appropriateness of further screening.

#### ***B. Parent Assessment of Learning/behavioral Characteristics***

1. Scales describing the student's learning/behavioral characteristics are completed by the parent.
2. These parent scales are evaluated according to preset criteria.

### **Step III. Qualifying Tests** - three components, as follows:

1. Top Scoring students from Steps I and Step II are assessed with a series of 3 qualifying tests, using standardized testing instruments designed to assess giftedness in elementary students.
2. The tests address mathematics and science, language arts and social studies, and nonverbal reasoning. According to the scoring manual, the scores are adjusted per month of each child's chronological age and are converted to quotients.

### **Determination**

The BES GATE Committee reviews the eligibility of all students and assures that all students are given an equal opportunity to be considered.

Eligibility determinations are based on each child's overall profile, which includes objective data gathered from skills tests, standardized test records, and qualifying test results, and subjective information as reported by classroom teachers and parents. Subjective information is scored according to set criteria. Eligibility is determined by total points accumulated across all areas, allowing for diverse strengths to be considered. All eligibility determinations are reviewed by the committee, this committee consisting of multiple teachers and one administrator.

Final decisions are made by the administration.

***Students that are eligible for academic Gifted and Talented services.***

- Students eligible for G&T services may participate in various program components.
- Participation schedules may vary due to aptitude and interest.
- Continuing eligibility is based on successful participation.

***If a student is found ineligible:***

- Students who completed screening but did not qualify may be reassessed **after a period of two years or as deemed necessary to meet the child's needs.**

Qualifying tests and parent assessments will **not** be repeated until after the two-year time frame for reassessment.

**Appeal Process:** A BES parent may appeal the process of the Gifted and Talented (GATE) program. Parents have 30 days from the start date to appeal.

1. To appeal the process the student should have a report card that has 75% or more of the standards marked as Exceeding Standards (ES). Email the district's Gifted and Talented (GATE) teacher, Clorymar Holyoak, to set up a meeting (phone or in-person) to review your child's Eligibility. Her email address is <[holyoak@blairstownelem.net](mailto:holyoak@blairstownelem.net)>.
2. After completing the first step of the Appeals Process, if you would like the opportunity to present additional materials to the Gifted and Talented Committee, your child will need to prepare a portfolio to present that consists of materials that demonstrate:
  - One page essay on why the student feels they should be accepted into the program
  - Academic skills above current grade level
  - Creativity
  - Task commitment/Self-Motivation

- Other supporting documents The Gifted and Talented Committee will meet with your child and review the presented materials. You will be notified of the committee's decision.

The Gifted and Talented Committee, which is made up of educators and the principal, will meet to review the information provided by parents. The information provided to the Committee will be redacted prior to the meeting, so all identifiable information is removed from the materials. The Gifted and Talented Committee will review the materials and make the determination of the appeal is granted, based on the materials provided by the parent. The results of the appeal will be communicated to parents in a letter. This process generally takes two weeks from the date of the appeal. Please email the student's portfolio to Colleen Silvestri at <silvestri@blairstownelem.net>.