

STANDARDS FOR GATE SEMINAR CENTERS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of the Seminar site to see that:

1. All Seminar teachers have GATE certification.
2. The Seminar Program comprises a significant portion of the student's school day – at least 30-40% at the secondary and nearly 100% at the elementary level.
3. During the Seminar Program portion of the day, Seminar classes do not exceed twenty (20) students per Seminar teacher. Written request from the site principal to the GATE Program Manager for a waiver must take place prior to any exception.
4. The Seminar program contains the six elements required by Education Code Section 52200 (c) of state GATE legislation (1978):
 - a. Differentiated opportunities for learning commensurate with the gifted and talented pupil's particular abilities and talents.
 - b. Alternative learning environments in which gifted and talented pupils can acquire skills and understanding at advanced ideological and creative levels commensurate with their potential.
 - c. Elements that help gifted and talented pupils develop sensitivity and responsibility to others.
 - d. Elements that help to develop a commitment in gifted and talented pupils to constructive ethical standards.
 - e. Elements that assist gifted and talented pupils to develop self-generating problem-solving abilities to expand each pupil's awareness of choices for satisfying contributions in his or her environment.
 - f. Elements that help gifted and talented pupils develop realistic, healthy self-concepts.
5. The Seminar program is based on the district GATE Curriculum Framework and Best Practices (in development during 1998-99).
6. All Seminar classes and programs are qualitatively differentiated from AP, advanced, honors, and GATE Cluster classes with a high degree of individualization and a rigorous academic base.
7. The requirements for student admission to the Seminar Program are adhered to as adopted in board policy on February 24, 1998.
8. The GATE Office is provided a copy of the GATE program summary section of the Comprehensive Site Plan notebook which is a written description, updated as needed, of the site's Seminar Program.
9. Seminar teachers are provided the opportunity to participate in specific staff-development opportunities designed for teachers of the highly gifted.

RATIONALE AND PURPOSE FOR THE SEMINAR PROGRAM FORMAT

The Seminar format, based on the characteristics and needs of the high gifted learner, exists in order to enable teachers to:

1. modify curriculum to allow time for high gifted students to pursue individual interests, incorporating student-designed standards of accountability;
2. provide opportunities for creative expression through varied techniques which include multiple product options, exhibitions in a variety of modalities, and investigation of problems which all for multiple solutions;
3. help students generate hypotheses for answers in a variety of ways which provide them with strategies for life-long learning and self-evaluation and which nurture their intrinsic motivation;
4. involve students in interactions which encourage an interplay and exchange of ideas using strategies which force students to support or defend ideas as well as analyze issues critically;
5. facilitate positive social and emotional outcomes, helping students feel comfortable with themselves and fostering an environment in which students feel the “fit,” are safe to express their ideas without stigma, and can maximize their individual potential;
6. create an environment in which students’ expression of their boundless energy and intensity, intellectual playfulness, imagination, and spirited disagreement are encouraged;
7. facilitate mastery of the core subjects and using a delivery system which support the unique learning styles of Seminar students; and
8. encourage the ability to view knowledge in an interdisciplinary way, by focusing to an even higher degree on generalizations and essential questions in order to facilitate advanced and enriched learning and make knowledge more relevant to the underlying themes of humanity.