**ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Learning Support Services**

**GATE Fact Sheet**

**Mission Statement:**

***The EGUSD program for gifted, talented, and high potential students will discover and nurture students with an exceptional level of performance in diverse areas of expression. The program will equitably and collaboratively engage students and their families to access rigorous instruction with support for intellectual, social and emotional needs.***

**Purpose of Program is to Provide:**

* A broader definition of Gifted and Talented
* Equitable opportunities for participation for all student groups
* Active student engagement in school
* Increased parent knowledge and involvement
* Opportunities for students to connect with and support other students

**History of Program:**

* Beginning in February 2014, the district established a GATE Planning Committee to provide:
  + Input in the development and evaluation of equitable identification and selection criteria;
  + Staff training to implement equitable identification practices;
  + Effective outreach efforts to students, parents and the community, including students and families from traditionally underrepresented student groups.

**What Has Changed with Identification?**

* There are 5 unique areas for identification.
* Each identification area will be considered separately.
* Students do not have to have be high academic achievers to be considered for identification.
* The GATE Coordinator at each school will coordinate identification, testing and parent communication.
* New areas of ability are being used for identification.

**New Identification Criteria:**

* The new GATE identification process will be based on students exhibiting *exceptional ability* in one of the following areas:
  + Creative Ability
  + Leadership Ability
  + Visual and Performing Arts Ability
  + Academic Ability
  + Cognitive Ability

**Seeking Students with Exceptional Ability:**

* Students with exceptional ability possess a capacity for excellence beyond their chronological peers in one of the areas.
* Evidence should show exceptional ability in a variety of settings, and at least one piece of evidence must be school-based.
* Evidence submitted will be scored on a performance rubric and evaluated by the GATE Site Committee.

**How is Exceptional Ability Defined?**

* Performing at a level that exceeds their chronological peers.
  + The student may be advanced for their age or grade level.
* Performing at a level that would widely be considered to be talented by the lay person.
  + The student has a talent identified by persons unfamiliar with techniques.
* Performing at a level that goes beyond the expectation of the activity.
  + The student goes beyond mastering the content, into unique or creative ways to display their knowledge.

**What Has Changed with GATE Programs and Activities?**

* Schools can plan activities around any of the identification areas, based on the needs and interests of their students.
* GATE activities can be focused on developing potential in any of the identification areas.
* GATE activities can be outside of the academic realm.

**Process and Timeline of Implementation:**

* The 2014-2015 school year included:
  + GATE Coordinator training
  + NNAT testing for all third grade students
  + Identification of students based on Cognitive ability (NNAT)
  + Outreach to families.
  + Training of all teachers during the pre-service days.
* The 2015-2016 School Year includes:
  + November - Training for GATE Coordinators on how to look for Creative ability, Leadership ability, and Visual and Performing Arts ability.
  + November and December - Student evidence for these areas is collected and reviewed at schools.
  + January - School site GATE committee meets to review and identify students in these three areas.
  + January and February - NNAT Testing of 3rd grade students
  + February and March - Notification of new identifications sent to families
  + Spring 2016 - SBAC is taken to provide second year of data for Academic ability.
  + Spring 2016 - Limited testing for Cognitive ability for 4th- 6th grade students, based on evidence of strength in the area.

**Looking to the Future:**

* What will our program look like if we are successful?
  + Students will be active and engaged learners.
  + Students will have opportunities to explore and develop their gifts and talents in middle and high school years and beyond.
  + Students will be prepared for the rigor and opportunities of honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses.
  + Students will be able to choose a variety of college and career opportunities.