

**San Ramon Valley Unified School District**  
**Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) –**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**How are students identified for GATE?**

San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) uses the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Form 7 as a measure to identify students' reasoning skills in verbal, quantitative and nonverbal areas. There are three short tests within each area. We currently use the CogAT to identify students eligible for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE).

**Which grade levels are given the CogAT?**

All 2nd grade students are administered the CogAT in their classrooms during the second semester of each school year. Certain students are able to take the CogAT exam on the optional testing date. Testing updates and registration information are published on the Gate Testing webpage.

**What CogAT scores qualify students for GATE?**

To be qualified for SRVUSD GATE identification, students must receive the Age Percentile Rank (APR) of 98 or above. Additionally, a student whose Age Percentile Rank is 97 AND has scored a 99 in ONE of the three areas (Verbal, Quantitative or Non Verbal), will be qualified for GATE identification.

**Can students who were identified as Gate in a previous district carry over that identification to SRVUSD?**

Previously identified gifted students who enter SRVUSD are considered for GATE identification as determined by the SRVUSD's GATE identification criteria. The parents will need to submit documentation to the school office during enrollment which shows the students' prior GATE program qualification, along with assessment results that were used for the qualification.

**Do we share information about the CogAT levels? Does the district recommend any materials for preparation to parents?**

To maintain test security, we do not provide information about the specific levels of the CogAT that students will be taking. Our district does not recommend any materials for CogAT preparation to parents. Students are encouraged to take the CogAT with minimal test preparation so that we get an accurate measure of the students' reasoning abilities.

**What does GATE identification look like in SRVUSD?**

***Gate in SRVUSD is an identification only, not a program.*** Gate-identified students do not receive additional pull out, push in, or after school learning opportunities.

At the middle school level, all students (not just Gate identified students) have the opportunity to be in an accelerated math pathway based on demonstration of mastery of prerequisite skills. At the high school level, all students (not just Gate identified students) have the opportunity to be admitted into Honors and Advanced Placement classes in selected courses based on eligibility

All students have the opportunity to be in an accelerated math pathway based on demonstration of mastery of prerequisite skills. At the high school level, all students have the opportunity to be admitted into Honors and Advanced Placement classes in selected courses based on performance.

### **What is the Academic Talent Program (ATP)?**

A small percentage of students who are GATE-identified qualify for the selection for our Academic Talent Program (ATP). ATP is a magnet class program for students in grades 4-8 who work in a homogeneous setting where their unique talents and abilities are challenged to the fullest extent. The curriculum is fast-paced and complex. ATP is not a gateway to advanced classes or selective colleges.

There are two separate ATP programs: Elementary ATP and Middle School ATP, and they require separate selection processes. Elementary ATP classes are currently offered at Bella Vista Elementary Schools. Middle School ATP classes are currently offered at Diablo Vista, Gale Ranch, and Windemere Ranch Middle Schools.

ATP is not for all students who are highly gifted. It is considered a special needs program designed for students who demonstrate a need for a different learning environment.

### **How do students get into ATP?**

ATP is a magnet class program for grades 4 through middle school who work in a homogeneous setting where their unique talents and abilities are challenged and the curriculum is fast-paced and complex. ATP is not a gateway to course advancement and does not provide advantage when enrolling in honors or advanced placement courses. Rather, it is a district program created for students demonstrating a need to be in a unique setting during their formative years of elementary and middle school. To be initially eligible for the ATP, students must score at the top 97 percentile within our district. Because there are many students in our district who score in the top national range, receiving a national percentile score of 99 does not necessarily mean that they meet the eligibility of 97 percentile within our district. These local scores are not posted in Campus Portal, as local scores are only used for the limited focus of identifying students for the ATP selection process.

ATP classes are currently offered at Bella Vista Elementary School. GATE-qualified students who receive an LPR score of 97 or higher are identified as potential candidates for ATP. If a student qualifies for the ATP selection process, parents will be notified by a letter. Selection for the program will be based on the CogAT scores as well as additional measures such as class work and school input. This process is used to select students who demonstrate the ability and desire to be in a highly challenging and fast-paced learning environment.

### **How can I find the students' local scores, the Local Percentile Rank (LPR)? Why aren't they posted like the national Age Percentile Rank (APR) scores?**

The LPR scores are not posted because they are only used for the purpose of ATP eligibility and affect a very small percentage of students. Parents and school staff may request their students' LPR by sending an email to: [ecassessmentmainline@srvusd.net](mailto:ecassessmentmainline@srvusd.net)