



# Gifted/Talented Programs Parent Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 3  
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**LAUSD CORE BELIEFS:** 1. Start with students, 2. Families are our partners, 3. Success is in the classroom, 4. Diversity is our strength, 5. Effective teaching, leadership, and accountability are the keys to our success.

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## What You Should Know About Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS)

The Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) program is an academically challenging educational option available throughout the District. This program is designed to meet the needs of gifted and high ability students in grades K–12. Curriculum and instruction is differentiated to match the student’s achievement level or capacity for learning and emphasizes depth, complexity, acceleration, and novelty.

To qualify to apply, students in Grades K–12 must reside within LAUSD boundaries, demonstrate the ability/potential to work two years above grade level, and meet **one** of the following three criteria:

- 1. Be identified as gifted by a LAUSD psychologist** in the *Intellectual, High Achievement, Specific Academic, Creative or Leadership Ability* categories
- 2. Have national percentile scores of 85 or above** on the most current District-approved standardized norm-referenced tests in **both**
  - total reading/ELA or reading composite **and** total math or math composite **or**
  - in verbal reasoning **and** quantitative reasoning
- 3. Demonstrate ability in all four** critical-thinking and problem-solving skills in their primary language:
  - Explain meanings or relationships among facts, information, or concepts that demonstrate depth and complexity
  - Formulate new ideas or solutions and elaborate on the information
  - Use alternative methods in approaching new or unfamiliar mathematical problems

- Use extensive vocabulary easily and accurately to express creative ideas

**Note:**

- Students in the current Magnet waitlist for the Gifted/High Ability or Highly Gifted Centers need to present the notification letter with the application.
- The teacher and principal of your child’s current school of attendance will determine if your child meets one of the eligibility criteria.

The application for the 2015–2016 school year will be available Districtwide. It may be downloaded from <http://achieve.lausd.net/gate> under “GATE Program Options” (available mid-March). Applications must be submitted directly to the SAS school of choice and must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian and the principal/designee of the school of attendance.

Students may apply to more than one SAS school (a list of SAS schools is available at the GATE webpage).

**SAS Application Period:**  
April 7–April 30, 2015

**Notification of Selection:**  
May 11, 2015

**Deadline for Receiving Late SAS Applications:**

May be submitted throughout the school year, as space permits.

Qualifying SAS-resident students do not need to submit an application and must be accommodated before non-resident SAS permits are granted. Please contact the SAS coordinator or administrator of each SAS school directly for space availability and for a description of grade levels/courses offered within the SAS program for next year.



**Note:** Transportation is not provided for SAS



In March, all LAUSD second graders will be administered the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test, 8th Edition (OLSAT-8) to be identified as gifted. Students who have been retained, take the CAPA for Special Education, or whose parents have opted out will not be administered the test. Students who score 95 and above in the Total Age-Based Percentile Rank (APR) will be automatically eligible for GATE in the High Achievement category. Schools will receive score reports later this spring and should send home a copy to parents.

If you were unable to attend the OLSAT parent informational meetings in February, go to <http://achieve.lausd.net/gate> and click on “What’s New” or “Parent Resources” to view the OLSAT parent overview presentation.

### Dates to Remember

**4/7–4/30:** SAS application window for 2015-16 school year

**4/10:** Deadline for schools to submit referrals for *Intellectual* category this year

**4/17:** Deadline for schools to submit referrals for *Visual/Performing Arts* category for May auditions/demonstrations

**4/25:** GATE/SAS Parent Conference @ Virgil MS

**5/2:** Conservatory of Fine Arts Showcase

**5/16:** Auditions/Demonstrations for identification in *Visual/Performing Arts* (by invitation only)

**5/29:** Deadline for schools to submit referrals for *High Achievement/Specific Academic Ability* (new students to LAUSD) and *Creative/Leadership Ability* categories this year

## You are invited to attend the 2015 GATE/SAS Parent Conference!

**Date:** Saturday, April 25, 2015

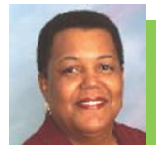
**Time:** 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Location:** Virgil Middle School  
152 N. Vermont Ave. Los Angeles

**FREE!** Open to all LAUSD GATE/SAS parents. No pre-registration required.

**Keynote Speaker:**

Joy Lawson Davis, Ed.D., is an Assistant Professor



of Education at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, where she teaches courses in Diversity Education and Gifted Education. An active member of the National Association for Gifted Children, currently serving her second term as chair of the NAGC’s Diversity and Equity Committee, Dr. Davis is also a co-editor of the *Special Populations Newsletter* and writes a column for NAGC’s *Teaching for High Potential* focusing on special populations of gifted learners. Recently, Dr. Davis became the curriculum director for the International Gifted Education Training Network. She is also the author of *Bright, Talented, and Black: A Guide for Families of African American Gifted Learners*.

Questions? Please contact Catherine Estrada, District Coordinator, Gifted/Talented Programs at (213) 241-6500.

### Stay Connected to Gifted/Talented Programs!



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