

Top 10 Things You Can Do Right Now

1. Run for the GDAC Leadership Team for Next Year!

If parents don't run to fill the 5 vacant positions next year, the GDAC will fold and parents will no longer have an official voice to speak for gifted children in our District. Nominations are open now and elections will be held at the May 13 2019 meeting.

2. Organize the next GATE Parent Meeting at Your School

This is a good opportunity to help orient newly identified families about their choices as well as introduce some basic information about giftedness (the District no longer provides such orientations). Your school should be having 2 GATE parent meetings/year. We have a slide deck that can be customized for your school (just ask us for it). If your school is small, consider partnering with another school in your neighborhood and organize a joint meeting.



3. Help orient newly identified families at your school

The results of the universal 2nd grade GATE testing are being released, and newly identified families will have many questions. For new Seminar-identified families, point them to the "*Seminar Intent to Enroll*" form and instructions posted on the District GATE website. The form is due BEFORE school ends for the summer. Remember, if your school doesn't have a Seminar program, newly identified Seminar families can use this process to request to move to the closest school that does.

4. Meet with your GATE Team at your school

Have you been meeting with your Principal and GATE Lead Teacher to discuss topics about your school's GATE program? Is your Principal making use of the "Principal's GATE Info Binder" they were given? Do they have questions/concerns you can relay to us? Have you been forwarding the notes and handouts from the GDAC meetings to GATE parents at your school (plus the GATE team)?

5. Review and update your school's GATE Program Summary

Summaries are online at the District GATE page. Review it with your Principal to ensure the dates for next year's 2 GATE parent meetings are decided and posted on the master calendar. Ensure that a GDAC rep (and an alternate) are identified. Is your school following through with the goals and instruction they committed to? If not, what is needed?

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6. Recruit another parent at your school to be your “alternate” in case you can’t attend a GDAC meeting (and to provide you with extra support)

Work in tandem with your alternate to spread out the workload. If you cannot be the GDAC rep next year, start working with your Principal ASAP to find someone to replace you. The 1st GDAC meeting of the next school year is on Monday Sept 9th and will include an important orientation for all GDAC reps, new and old. It is very important to have the reps in place and ready to go before Sept 2019.

7. Attend a Cluster Meeting to make connections and represent GATE views

Cluster info is posted here: <https://www.sandiegounified.org/clusters>. Bring handouts or GATE Matters postcards to give out, or ask to speak. Area Superintendents and Board members often attend so you can network with them in person. Find out who at your school regularly attends these meetings and coordinate with them so GATE has a voice.

8. Get the dates of the upcoming GDAC meetings onto your school calendar.

Principals start working on their school calendars through the summer. So make sure GATE is on their mind, and on the calendar, before summer hits. That includes both the monthly GDAC meetings, plus your school’s GATE parent meetings. Get that information into online or print versions of parent newsletters being sent by your school PTA and/or school foundation (and personally invite parents to come). Use PeachJar to send out an info flyer.

9. Check out the resources on the District GATE website

There is a lot of valuable information posted on the website, including a link to videos of several previous *GATE Distinguished Lectures*. The slides from previous GDAC presentations are available via the *GATE DAC Presentations* link, on topics such as classroom differentiation, GATE testing, social-emotional issues, and parent involvement. Print out the slide deck to create a display poster about GATE that you can use for your school meetings (see “*GATE Posters*” file from Sept 12/2016). You can freely use this convenient goldmine of information to help inform parents at your school.

10. Send an email or go meet with your Board of Education trustee and/or Area Superintendent

Ask them to explain their position on GATE and give them some talking points about its importance to your family and in your community. They should view GATE as providing essential services to a special needs population. Remember that some under-represented populations don’t necessarily have the experience, confidence, or knowledge to advocate for themselves. Use your voice to speak up on behalf of ALL GATE students, not just your own child.