

***Tips & Tricks for Effective GATE DAC Representation**

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GATE DAC Chair

*GATE DAC

What is it?

- ✧ Committee comprised of parent representatives from schools across the SDU School District
- ✧ Mechanism for parent and community involvement in educational programs for gifted students

What does it do?

- ✧ Supports the GATE Program
- ✧ Opens communication between District Administrators, local schools, and parents
- ✧ Disseminates information back to school sites
- ✧ Provides constructive feedback from parents to help with planning/implementing the GATE program

*GATE DAC Reps

Reps work with schools and GATE Team Leaders to:

- ✧ Coordinate efforts on parent development
- ✧ Promote communication on GATE issues
- ✧ Enhance the school's GATE program

Examples of activities:

- ✧ Communicating with parents (newsletters, website, events and parent meetings)
- ✧ Reviewing school site “GATE Program Summaries”
- ✧ Establishing business/community partnerships
- ✧ Coordinating parents and professionals who have special expertise
- ✧ Participating in gifted education conferences

*GATE DAC

- ✧ Reps are appointed by their school site Principal or SSC for 1 or 2 year terms
- ✧ District staff represent SDUSD at each meeting but are not formal members of the committee
- ✧ Interested members of the public may attend and participate in discussions but cannot vote
- ✧ Reps who miss 3 consecutive meetings will be asked to resign (*so please designate a secondary representative!*)

*GATE DAC Objectives

According to the Bylaws, the DAC:

- ✧ Educates parents on current developments, issues, problems and solutions
- ✧ Advises District and BoE by providing feedback and recommendations re programming, goals, and services
- ✧ Facilitates parent involvement in planning and evaluation of the GATE program
- ✧ Annually reviews/evaluates the District program objectives and implementation

GATE District Advisory Committee

Home

*Nuts & Bolts
Handbook*

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The SDUSD District Advisory Committee (DAC) for the GATE Department continues as an important vehicle for parent and community involvement in educational programs for gifted students. The GATE DAC is comprised of parent representatives from schools through out the district, and is designed to represent all geographical areas of the district as well as the GATE programs and the grade levels in which they are offered.

As a district wide group the GATE DAC is an important asset for the GATE program. It opens communications between district administrators, local schools, and parents in innovative ways that fit each school's individual needs. In particular, it can provide constructive feedback from parents to stimulate continued growth in the GATE program.

GATE DAC representatives work with schools and GATE Team Leaders to coordinate efforts on parent development, to promote communication on GATE issues, and to enhance the school's GATE program. Examples include: publishing newsletters; establishing business partnerships; coordinating parents and professional who have special expertise; assisting site planning committees; participating in gifted education conferences.

[GATE DAC Bylaws](#)

[GATE DAC Bylaws- Spanish version](#)

[GATE DAC Representative Nuts and Bolts Packet](#)

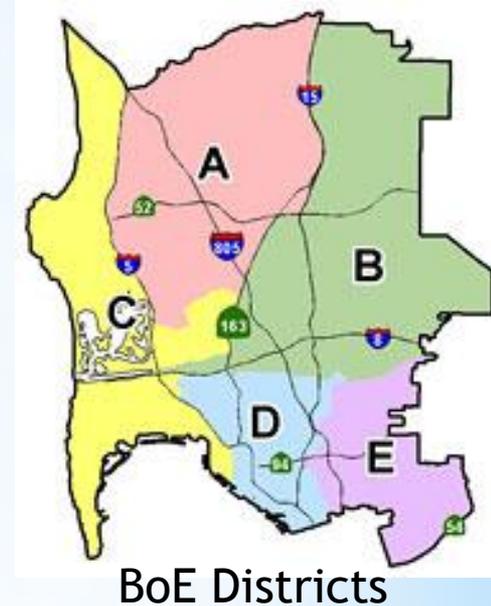
[GATE DAC Representative Nuts and Bolts Packet- Spanish version](#)



*Self-Education

Brush up on the following basics:

- ✧ What Area are you in? (1 thru 6)
- ✧ Who is your Area Superintendent?
- ✧ Who is your BoE member? (Districts A-E)
- ✧ What Cluster does your school belong to?
- ✧ Obtain and review the GATE Program Summary for your school site
- ✧ Is there a Seminar Program in your Cluster?
- ✧ Who is on your school's GATE Team?
- ✧ Who are your local, state, and federal government representatives?



AREA SUPERINTENDENT LEARNING COMMUNITIES
San Diego Unified School District, 2015-16



*Communication

In the first few weeks of school:

- ✧ Introduce yourself to the Principal and GATE Team Lead and office staff
- ✧ Help set the date for 2 GATE parent meetings (fall and spring) and get them on the calendar
- ✧ Find out when your ***Back to School Night*** is going to be and ask to set up an information table
- ✧ Talk to your site GATE team about how best to communicate with GATE parents
- ✧ Inquire about using office copier to print flyers, and getting a mailbox in the office

*Communication

Identify the best way to communicate with Parents:

- ✧ School newsletter (submit blurbs to Principal for approval)
- ✧ School website (ask about getting a link on your school's official website)
- ✧ Create your own website or Facebook page or coordinate with your PTA
- ✧ Ask how to obtain parent contact info (*the District won't allow the school to give that out*)
- ✧ Inquire about providing Principal with scripts for telephone robo-calls put out by the school (*they are able to organize calls specifically for GATE parents!*)

*Outreach

Reach out and get involved with your local schools:

- ✧ Use the DAC to meet Reps from other schools
- ✧ Share ideas/resources/lessons learned with other DAC Reps (or PTA organizations)
- ✧ Hold joint events with other parent groups (PTA) or even with other schools in your feeder pattern
- ✧ Use school events (BBQs, movie nights) to set up an info table (*wear a GATE button to events or make an apron or T-shirt to identify yourself!*)
- ✧ Seek out GATE/Seminar Foundations in the District
- ✧ Attend Cluster meetings, join your Community of Schools if it is active - be visible - get involved!

*Where to Get Help

Begin at the top of list & work your way down:

- ✧ GATE website
- ✧ Your student's teacher
- ✧ School site GATE Team Lead
- ✧ Administrator responsible for GATE at your school
(usually the Principal)
- ✧ School site Psychologist
- ✧ GATE Resource Teacher (April Stebbins-Dorman)
(858) 203-4809 or adorman@sandi.net

The GATE Office has moved!

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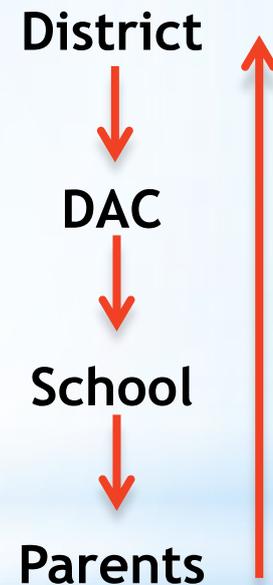
*GATE Parent Meetings

Offer to help run these meetings:

- ✧ An outline and sample agenda is available on the Nuts & Bolts link of the District GATE page
- ✧ Agenda may include overview of GATE program at District level and at your school site, opportunities for parent involvement, upcoming dates, etc.
- ✧ Get to know your Principal and GATE Team Lead well in advance, to gauge their opinions on GATE and their overall attitude towards parents
- ✧ Parents may be at very different stages in their GATE experience (newly identified vs. veterans)!

*Wrap Up

- ✧ Communication and Outreach
- ✧ Relationships
- ✧ Education
- ✧ Sharing
- ✧ Feedback



Thank You!