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GATE Program at a Glance

MBUSD strives to provide personalized learning experiences for all students. We recognize that students identified as GATE have a unique set of needs both socially and academically. The MBUSD GATE Plan was updated in 2016 to address those characteristics. The updated GATE Plan calls for each of the following to be uniquely available for GATE-identified students:

GATE-Certified Teachers: All teachers and counselors will have foundational training in GATE strategies over the next three years. The district will continue encouraging teachers to become GATE Certified. GATE students will be assigned to appropriately trained teachers in 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade math, and 6-8th grade science.

GATE Folders: Student-specific information shall be available to teachers to enable more personalized learning and in-class experiences. There will be a GATE specific goal setting form in this folder that elementary teachers will use during fall goal setting conferences. Middle school parents will have the option to complete a GATE goal setting form at the beginning of each school year. GATE folders will be passed on from teacher to teacher as the student matriculates through MBUSD grade levels and housed with the counselors at the middle and high school levels.

GATE Leadership: The district will establish the new role of Personalized Learning Lead (PLL) [1 per elementary school and 2 at MBMS (1-humanities; 1-STEM)]. These educational leads will offer time to support teachers in creating personalized learning experiences utilizing GATE strategies, and promoting the awareness of enrichment activities. The PLLs will report to the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. This extra-hours position will cost \$28,000 annually.

GATE After-School Activities: In addition to popular overnight field trips during 6th-8th grade, after-school programs via MB/X will be offered to GATE students seeking to learn new skills as well as opportunities for social interaction with their peers (at least two courses per grade level 4-8). Examples of courses offered are: creative writing, computer science, and engineering. Field trips will be designated for GATE only students, and afterschool classes will be offered to all MBUSD students with the goal of creating homogeneous GATE groups when possible.

GATE-Specific Communications: MBUSD shall host quarterly GATE Advisory Committee (GAC) meetings featuring guest speakers. The overall quality of online resources and overall messaging of the GATE program will be addressed to provide adequate information to the MBUSD community.

GATE Identification: For the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years students will be identified using the OLSAT (scores 135 and above), or a combination of OLSAT (130-134) and SBAC (exceeds standards in both ELA and Math). Identification will end in the 2016-2017 school year.

Moving Toward GATE Strategies for All: This plan will be in effect for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years. This plan provides for a transition to GATE Strategies for All, where all teachers and counselors will have a foundational training in GATE strategies and the district will provide evidence that students in grades K-12 are engaged in personalized educational experiences. In the spring of each school year, the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services will provide a report to the Board of Trustees and GATE Advisory Committee detailing advancement towards personalized learning in grades K-12. Data will include: surveys (parent, teacher, student), qualitative and quantitative observational data, and achievement data. If personalized learning benchmarks are not met by 2018, then the GATE Plan will be extended to the 2018-2019 school year.