

## GATE Programs in MVSD and Its Peers - 30 March 2012

There are 1,020 school districts in California: What can we learn from them about GATE? Which districts should we look to?

Q: What can we learn from them about GATE? A: A lot, starting with basics like (1) do they even have a GATE program, (2) when and how do they identify, and (3) do they have a specific structure in place for serving GATE kids.

Q: Which districts should we look to? A: The ones that are our peers, i.e. which most closely resemble ours in key ways. We argue the most important ways are (1) student achievement as measured by district average API (2010 Base & 2011 Growth), (2) parent achievement as measured by district average parent education level, and (3) district size as measured by number of students who took the API. This is not to say that we have nothing to learn from dissimilar districts (e.g. Oakland seems to be doing a lot of things right), but if we are going to make a case to the MVSD then our case is most compelling when we use as a model a district they see as a peer or as comparable. Another important similarity is (4) geographic proximity, i.e. seeing Bay Area or even Marin County schools as our peers.

RESULT: The fifty CA school districts most similar to MVSD as defined in this way are:

District / GATE Link	County	#Tested	API	Parent Ed	Notes
Mill Valley Elementary	Marin	2,089	935	4.55	
<a href="#">Piedmont City Unified</a>	Alameda	1,924	928	4.60	Very impressive
<a href="#">Solana Beach Elementary</a>	San Diego	1,968	939	4.35	
<a href="#">Menlo Park City Elementary</a>	San Mateo	1,909	934	4.43	
<a href="#">Los Gatos Union Elementary</a>	Santa Clara	2,347	926	4.44	
<a href="#">Orinda Union Elementary</a>	Contra Costa	1,924	956	4.34	
<a href="#">Saratoga Union Elementary</a>	Santa Clara	1,804	967	4.68	
<a href="#">San Marino Unified</a>	Los Angeles	2,482	952	4.41	
<a href="#">Lafayette Elementary</a>	Contra Costa	2,486	922	4.45	
<a href="#">San Carlos Elementary</a>	San Mateo	2,154	901	4.18	
<a href="#">Coronado Unified</a>	San Diego	2,270	892	4.28	??? No data ???
<a href="#">Laguna Beach Unified</a>	Orange	2,298	900	4.10	El Morro Elementary seems to have GATE program, but little documentation. Anastasia Quirarte, current GATE coordinator, \$3K budget.
<a href="#">Burlingame Elementary</a>	San Mateo	2,046	895	4.07	6 d/yr of pull-out
<a href="#">Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary</a>	San Mateo	2,302	906	4.01	Boilerplate but few specifics on GATE program. Alternatives Committee 03May2011 <a href="#">minutes</a> page 4 reports 131 kids in GATE; \$20K/yr funding for summer programs was zeroed. No easy way forward; decided to stick with immersion. As of 2008, GATE ID in 4G & 5G via OLSAT or Raven.
<a href="#">Walnut Creek Elementary</a>	Contra Costa	2,582	906	4.13	Sounds great. "At the elementary school level, classroom teachers work with coaches and other support professionals to provide greater depth and breadth for students who exceed core curriculum standards." Kids ID in 4G. <a href="#">Excellent position paper.</a> "Differentiation is an integral part of each school day, along with challenging opportunities for GATE students to work together." STANDARD: Every teacher creates diff plan for each GATE kid.

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<a href="#">Ross Valley Elementary</a>	Marin	1,516	921	4.18	RVSD tests all kids via TCS2 in 3G, GATE starts in 4G. Many parents do not know what it is. RVSD focus is on differentiated instruction. Stalled in '08?
Del Mar Union Elementary	San Diego	3,019	959	4.55	
<a href="#">La Canada Unified</a>	Los Angeles	3,107	938	4.47	Pull-out 4-6
<a href="#">Moraga Elementary</a>	Contra Costa	1,386	950	4.53	No GATE???
Eureka Union	Placer	2,725	902	4.05	
Oak Park Unified	Ventura	3,096	917	4.19	
<a href="#">Carmel Unified</a>	Monterey	1,698	898	3.94	Well-documented. GATE kids receive Individualized Learning Plan. GATE coord is talkative. ID test in 2G. Impressive! ID in 2G!
<a href="#">Los Altos Elementary</a>	Santa Clara	3,351	967	4.59	
<a href="#">Dixie Elementary</a>	Marin	1,408	901	4.06	Most screening in 3G, but any grade could be referred. GATE offers diff, after-school, and clubs. Special catalog of GATE courses. Impressive!
Loomis Union Elementary	Placer	1,945	896	3.77	
South Pasadena Unified	Los Angeles	3,344	912	4.20	
Hillsborough City Elementary	San Mateo	1,209	968	4.53	
Scotts Valley Unified	Santa Cruz	1,974	879	3.94	
El Segundo Unified	Los Angeles	2,412	885	3.80	
Rescue Union Elementary	El Dorado	3,152	888	4.01	
Albany City Unified	Alameda	2,748	879	3.95	
Union Elementary	Santa Clara	3,364	913	3.87	
Encinitas Union Elementary	San Diego	3,875	908	4.09	
<a href="#">Larkspur-Corte Madera</a>	Marin	1,005	922	4.33	"We now include differentiated learning opportunities during the instructional day, and do not offer afterschool or lunch time classes. This benefits all students and helps us maintain a program that is inclusive and targeted."  GATE testing in 3G using OLSAT. Both teacher recommendation and parent permission for GATE testing required.
Beverly Hills Unified	Los Angeles	3,534	882	4.07	
Hermosa Beach City Elementary	Los Angeles	989	937	4.31	
<a href="#">Reed Union Elementary</a> (Tiburon, Belvedere, portion of east CM)	Marin	986	957	4.48	Principal Nora Ho of Reed Elementary School = experienced GATE veteran.  See <a href="#">Talent Development (TaD) Task Force Report</a> , May 2009  4G&5G accel in math; 2 pull-outs/wk; field trips; opera; 5G daily enrichment; GATE teacher.  "Andee's old Reed district used to test in 2G until the money ran out." [Andee, 2/14/2012]
Buckeye Union Elementary	El Dorado	3,543	889	3.89	
Las Lomitas Elementary	San Mateo	966	964	4.36	
Pacific Grove Unified	Monterey	1,304	878	3.78	

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<a href="#">Kentfield Elementary</a>	Marin	854	940	4.46	No GATE program???
Manhattan Beach Unified	Los Angeles	5,015	930	4.39	
Cypress Elementary	Orange	2,810	878	3.56	
Cambrian	Santa Clara	2,481	876	3.48	
Dublin Unified	Alameda	4,507	882	3.72	
Washington Union Elementary	Monterey	719	902	4.11	
Huntington Beach City Elementary	Orange	5,307	892	3.86	
Fountain Valley Elementary	Orange	4,895	893	3.67	
Rincon Valley Union Elementary	Sonoma	2,247	874	3.43	
Templeton Unified	San Luis Obispo	1,698	851	3.63	
Hope Elementary	Santa Barbara	692	896	3.80	
<a href="#">Ross Elementary</a> (FYI)	Marin	270	938	4.61	Every Kind of Mind ( <a href="#">EKOM</a> ), Ross's version of ITAV? Site Council <a href="#">reports</a> they're trying to get better about GATE. School board <a href="#">acknowledges</a> GATE is an "area of improvement." No GATE coord?
Lagunitas Elementary (FYI)	Marin	142	774	3.91	No GATE program???
<a href="#">Novato Unified</a> (FYI)	Marin	5,612	827	3.41	All 3G screened using NNAT2 (cf. MVSD uses OLSAT). Threshold = 90%ile. "True GATE students need a replacement program for their areas of talent. <a href="#">FAQ</a> They learn a different way and retain information at a much faster pace than other students. Because of these characteristics, and others, differentiated instruction is needed and our teachers will provide these students with a more depth and complex approach to the curriculum. ... It is different than a student that is high-achieving and works hard to get good grades. GATE students truly need a different programming approach." Novato is impressive, or at least they <i>talk</i> impressive. GATE <a href="#">reported</a> directly to board.
<a href="#">San Rafael City Elementary</a> (FYI)	Marin	2,776	795	2.62	There seems to be no GATE program. There is an interesting news item explaining why: Special Ed is eating up everything around it.

