



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Together, We Are Building

a full-service community school district that serves the whole child,
eliminates inequity and provides each child with an excellent teacher, every day.

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Gate Advisory Committee

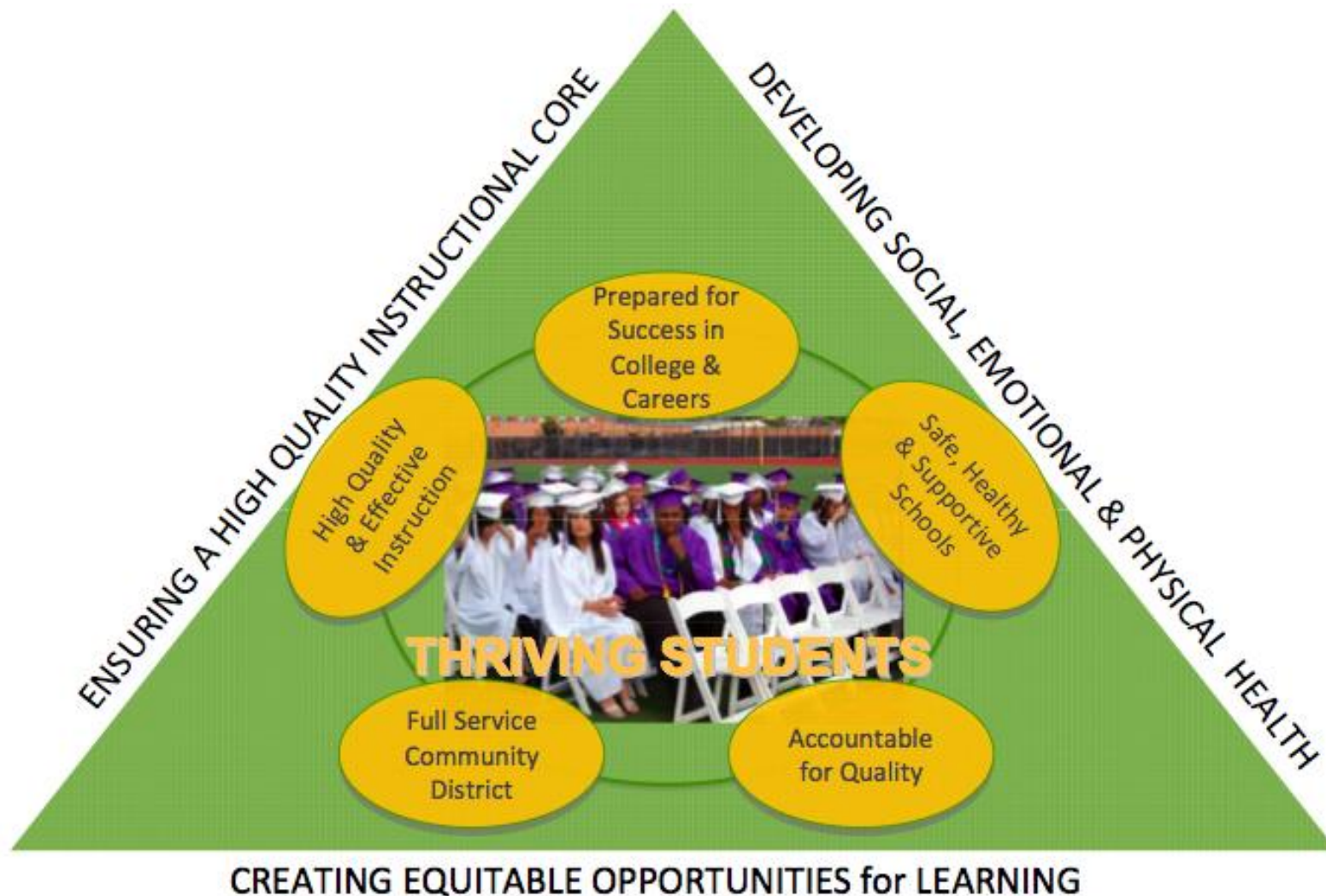
**Presentation to the OUSD Board of Education
May 16, 2012**

MISSION of the COMMITTEE

To support equitable learning opportunities and appropriate curriculum for gifted, talented, and high-potential K-12 students* within OUSD—and to encourage a climate in which they can thrive intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

* Whether or not they have been officially GATE-identified

OUSD & the Community Schools Model for Change & Action



Support for GATE is essential to the community schools model for helping students thrive:

- High-quality, effective instruction must address the needs of learners of all types, including those who need greater challenges (i.e., learn quickly, already proficient)
- GATE is an equity issue—all students deserve to advance significantly in their learning each year
- GATE is an integral component of college/career readiness
- GATE is vital to students' social & emotional health

Why GATE support is an equity issue

- Approx. 10% of OUSD students in all demographic groups are gifted/advanced/high-potential
- Many gifted students know more than half of the grade-level curriculum before the school year starts
- Students who must wait or tutor others don't learn to master challenging course material —a skill they'll need to succeed in high school Honors/A.P.
- GATE happens in the classroom every day. If challenge occurs only outside of school, students without access are at a disadvantage

Why GATE support is important for social and emotional health

- It is estimated that 20 to 25% of gifted children have social and emotional difficulties, about twice as many as in the general population of students
- Difficulties may involve emotional intensity, strong sensitivity, perfectionism, and (if unchallenged) boredom that leads to classroom misbehavior
- Peer pressure can lead to isolation/bullying or students underperforming to gain peer acceptance
- Training in GATE issues can help teachers recognize and address these students' particular needs

About the GATE Advisory Committee

For nearly a decade, the GATE Advisory Committee has been a key partner in the OUSD's GATE program, working to address student needs and expand learning options.

The Committee makes recommendations to the District GATE Coordinator to develop and enhance the GATE Plan and program, to increase parent engagement and to fulfill State guidelines.

The committee meets three or more times per year. Each school site is asked to have a representative.

About the GATE Advisory Committee

We advise on the following areas:

- Program design
- Student identification
- Curriculum and instruction
- Social and emotional development of students
- Professional development
- Parent and community outreach and engagement
- Program assessment
- Program budget
- OUSD GATE policy

About the GATE Advisory Committee

Key accomplishments to date:

- GATE-related professional development for teachers
 - Pilot program in differentiated instruction for middle school teachers, highly popular GATE certification program (2009-2011)
- Parent education conference & lecture series
 - Several hundred attendees from throughout District (2008-2010)
- Increase in 3rd grade testing & identification
 - From pilot to district-wide; opt-in to opt-out; increased identified students from historically under-represented populations
- Sharing resources & best practices
 - OUSD GATE pages & beta version of wiki contain information, resources, lesson plans, site best practices, support for online community

COMMITTEE Work Supporting the OUSD Strategic Plan

GOAL AREA	Committee Work
#1: Safe, Healthy, and Supportive Schools	Provide large-scale community outreach to help GATE families work with teachers to support and challenge students at home and at school
#2: Prepared for Success in College and Career	Advocate for improved GATE support, especially at the middle school level, to prepare students for A.P. and honors courses available in high school
#3: High Quality and Effective Instruction	Research GATE education strategies and promote findings, to channel funds (GATE and parent-raised) into programs and services at school sites supporting effective instruction
#5: Accountable for Quality	Actively monitor implementation of District GATE policies and practices and lobby to reestablish OUSD's currently suspended GATE-certification program for teachers

Challenges remain

- Number of GATE-identified students (of all ages) has been growing each year yet instructional/programmatic support has not increased to meet need
- Disproportionate lack of GATE programs at sites with historically under-identified/under-served populations
- Too many teachers/principals unfamiliar with GATE strategies or uncommitted to program implementation despite critical need
- Lack of GATE support in middle school leaves many unprepared for rigors of high school honors and A.P.—especially disadvantaged students; some even drop out
- Myths and misconceptions about GATE (i.e., being an elite or unnecessary program) undermine access and equity
- No accountability to ensure District-wide, equitable access to GATE

COMMITTEE IDEAS

HOW TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE to REACH OUTCOMES?

- Develop a specific plan to address needs of GATE learners at each grade level—pathways to college/career including curriculum development, instructional strategies, teacher training and support
- Implement a system of accountability backed by OUSD leadership to ensure GATE is fully implemented, every day, at all sites
- Resume/expand outreach & education to GATE families
- Recruit GATE reps—both a teacher and a parent/guardian—at all sites to ensure equitable representation & idea exchange
- Regularly monitor and evaluate outcomes for GATE students, including whether they eventually take A.P. or honors courses & graduate; include GATE in site/principal/teacher evaluations/rubrics