



Megan Battle, Ed.D.
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Dear Elementary Parents,

For many years the State of California provided special funding for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) in our schools. However, GATE program funding is now included in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), authorized by the 2013-14 Budget Act, in place of most previously existing K-12 state funding streams. This program is now determined at the local level.

CUSD's primary Governing Board Goal is to provide a personalized education for every student. Our philosophy is that all students have gifts, talents, and needs. Consequently, all students deserve to have a "just right" education—one which is designed to meet the unique needs of every student. Structures and resources within the District and each school are used to meet those needs and differentiate instruction in all classrooms.

Coronado Unified School District does not use the previous term "GATE" to distinguish some students from others. Rather we believe in "Teaching to High Potential" for *all* students. Our THP philosophy is evident and expected in all CUSD classrooms by:

- providing a rigorous academic program to prepare students for college and career aligned to the Common Core State Standards and 21st century skills
- establishing a positive relationship with students and their families from the first day of school
- assessing students daily on progress, providing immediate feedback to students on strengths and needs in order to grow, and partnering with parents
- developing Personalized Education Plans (PEPs) using real-time data from benchmark and formative assessments for English language arts and mathematics. PEPs provide specific feedback to students who set periodic goals, and track progress. Parents are included in the PEP process.
- tailoring instruction to meet student needs and using site and District resources to ensure appropriate placement and instruction. All elementary teachers are highly trained in differentiated instruction strategies and there are many systems at each school site that support this. Certificated classroom teachers and administration work together to provide small group instruction on a continuum of services from intervention for below-proficient students to extension for above-proficient students. Students are often grouped within classroom settings according to personal learning needs for these services. Students also receive individual support within classroom environments through a variety of means including technology resources, enrichment and extension opportunities.
- continuing to provide professional development for all staff on formative assessment, feedback, and differentiation

A relevant, stimulating, enriching education is the right of every student. We believe CUSD students receive engaging education every day. The wide variety of opportunities for growth, exploration, and mastery via myriad CUSD pathways is available to all our students. For more information on our specific school services, please contact your site principal or your child's teacher. We thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Megan Battle", written over a light blue grid background.

Dr. Megan Battle
Director
Department of Learning