

GATE

Current Middle School Best Practices

Recruitment:

- Conduct student “shadow visits” at middle schools for 5th graders
- Provide parent workshops and at least two open houses for prospective parents
- Provide teachers with the opportunity to identify students for testing
- Have a “GATE Night” for parents before testing takes place
- Recruiter doing classroom visits –look for students with good work ethic, motivation to succeed, independent workers, and students who show initiative
- Communicate testing timeline to schools in various ways, emails, meetings with school representatives; flyers
- Mine students from resource classes to test for SC GATE

Retention:

- Send home GATE newsletters and notices about special events
- Teach students organizational strategies
- Hold GATE parent conferences
- Conduct summer transition activities for incoming students
 - Create list serve for parents and contact them before school starts
- Provide after school tutoring to support students

Curriculum/Instruction:

- Overall, should emphasize critical and creative thinking, creative problem solving and reasoning and inquiry learning.
 - Practices should include:
 - ✓ 6th graders testing in spring
 - ✓ Instruction that provides students with content that is rigorous and includes depth and complexity
 - ✓ Provide accelerated math for HS Algebra or GATE math 7, followed by geometry
 - ✓ Teachers who infuse instruction with gifted strategies
 - ✓ Providing students with many opportunities to work collaboratively
 - ✓ Providing students with project-based learning
 - ✓ Emphasis on student-led instruction
 - ✓ Utilizing quality resources to support instruction, including those available through GATE office (Literacy Kits, Interact Kits, Academic Games)

Supporting Students:

- Identify struggling students early on in the school year
- Create plans for stages of support
- Use student support plan that is created by teacher, parent and student
- Require tutoring for struggling students
- Conduct summer transition activities for incoming students

Supporting Teachers

- Provide quality, ongoing professional development
- Ensure materials are available
- Ensure a time for teacher team planning (grade level and vertical)

Working with Parents:

- Implement and require parents to attend “Parent Boot Camp” that focuses on supporting high ability students
- Teach students organizational strategies
- Hold GATE parent conferences