

17. Advanced Learning Experiences (ALE)

TUSD has four categories that encompass the Advanced Learning Experiences offered to students through the District. TUSD is committed to providing equity in access and supporting academic achievement for all students. More information on all of the programs mentioned below is available on the TUSD website or by calling the specific school or ALE office.

1. GATE: Gifted and Talented Education

TUSD offers several options in order to provide gifted education services to students appropriately identified. A test is given every Fall and students are placed in the appropriate program, as space is available, based on their scores.

- a. **Self-Contained GATE: Grades 1st – 8th** Self-contained GATE services are provided for students at three elementary and three middle schools. Gifted endorsed teachers provide enriched and accelerated instruction in all core subject areas using gifted strategies. Both English language and dual-language (Spanish/English) programs are available in TUSD. There is a feeder pattern that determines which self-contained school a student will attend.
 - 1) English-language self-contained programs:
 - a) ES: Kellond, Lineweaver, White,
 - b) MS: Doolen, Pistor, Vail
 - 2) Dual-Language (Spanish/English) self contained programs:
 - a) ES: Hollinger (1st – 5th)
 - b) MS: Pistor (6th – 8th)
- b. **Pull-Out GATE** - These programs are offered at all elementary schools in TUSD. GATE Itinerant teachers provide instruction for GATE identified students for an hour and a half outside of their mainstream classroom.
- c. **Resource GATE** - These programs are offered in all TUSD middle and K-8 schools for students in grades 6-8. GATE identified students get priority placement in these classes. Other non-GATE students are eligible to enroll in these classes based on criteria that may include AIMS scores, grades, teacher recommendation, and/or parent or student request. Placement is based on space availability.
- d. **GATE Cluster Schools** – GATE students in Cluster schools are “clustered” together in a classroom with non-GATE, mainstream students. A gifted endorsed teacher is assigned to a classroom at each grade level in grades 1-5. Teachers provide instruction in all core areas using gifted strategies.
GATE students in Cluster classrooms also receive an hour and a half of pull-out GATE enrichment time outside their mainstream classroom. Instruction is provided by a GATE itinerant teacher.
Cluster schools for 2014-15 SY: Dunham ES, Fruchthendler ES; Robins K-8.

2. AAC: Advanced Academic Courses

- a. **Pre-AP:** These are courses that prepare students to take Advanced Placement(AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes. These courses include those titled Honors,

Advanced, and Accelerated in addition to middle school classes taken for high school credit.

- b. AP: Advanced Placement classes are College Board approved classes that use a standard curriculum and resources. They are college-level classes and students may receive college credit for them if they choose to take and then pass an end-of-year exam. These classes are offered at all TUSD high schools.
- c. IB: The International Baccalaureate Programme is a standardized college-preparatory course of study that is offered at Cholla High School, Safford K-8, and Robison ES. At the high school level, students may receive college credit for courses taken if they choose to take and then pass an end-of-year exam.
- d. Dual-Credit: Dual-Credit courses are those for which a student may receive both high school and college credit simultaneously, if a passing grade is earned (as determined by the college awarding the credit). Students receive credit either through Pima Community College or the University of Arizona. These classes are offered on a site-by-site basis and only some TUSD high schools may offer them.

3. UHS: University High School

UHS is an “exam” high school in that students qualify for admission through an exam, grades, and other assessments. It is a nationally-ranked high school, annually placing among the top ten high schools in the United States in the US News and World Reports rankings.

4. Dual Language

The dual language program is at three schools that form a feeder pattern of K-12 services: Hollinger K-8, Pistor MS, Pueblo HS. This program provides instruction for cognitive and linguistic development in two languages (English and Spanish) for mainstream and ELL students with the educational goals of bilingualism, biliteracy, and biculturalism.