



GATE IDENTIFICATION FAQ's

April 2016

- Approximately 12,000 students are tested for GATE eligibility each year. All second grade students are universally tested. Students, new to the district in the third, fourth, and fifth grade are also tested. In addition, fifth grade students who met a certain criteria from the first test, are retested.
- On June 23, 2015, the BOE approved a new process in the identification of students who are eligible for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Programs and Services.
 - The new process utilizes a multi-criteria matrix, i.e., multiple data points.
 - The Ravens Progressive Matrices will be replaced with a current standardized, norm-referenced, electronic assessment instrument. This type of assessment aligns with state testing.
- The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Inc., was approved for purchase as the assessment replacing the Ravens Progressive Matrices. The CogAT is a psychometrically sound, norm-referenced cognitive computer-based assessment instrument. The CogAT provides 3 subtests (as opposed to 1 with the Raven) that measure non-verbal abilities, quantitative abilities, and verbal abilities. This test provides a more comprehensive assessment of fluid and crystallized intelligence while maintaining the ability to test diverse learners through non-verbal abilities.
- The multi-factor GATE eligibility matrix will include multiple sources of data including test scores, grades, and special factors that are known to impact test scores. Matrix factors are weighted and may include economic challenges, mobility rates, disabilities, and English language learners.
- The current testing of students in grades 2-5 and re-test criteria will remain.
- Results will be shared the same as in previous years through a letter home to parents. Letters are expected to go home prior to the end of the school year. Students who are identified seminar will be guaranteed placement into their closest seminar school with open availability.
- The appeal process will remain the same as it is now. Parents can request an appeal and the team will review all student data including but not limited to grades, teacher input, parent input, test scores, and factors.
- A newcomer identification process was piloted in the 2014-15 school year and has been implemented for grades 6-12. In 2009, the BOE approved the elimination of GATE testing

after the fifth grade. This was a result of the amount of available date for those students to make informed programming decisions beyond the Raven test.

- Currently, the Information Technology department, School Psychology departments and GATE department are coordinating efforts to create the new multiple-criteria electronic reporting system.
- GATE assessment began March 2016 and will continue through June.
- On Monday, April 11, Carrie Rea, Program Manager, and Kristin Makena, Senior School Psychologist, attended the GATE District Advisory Council to provide an update on the identification process including the CogAt assessment and to address parent questions. In addition, Kristin has been reassigned from her regular duties to focus 100% of her time in providing initial support via on-site or phone consultation to the 85 school psychologists administering the CogAt.
- Revision to the existing Administrative Procedure will be revised as appropriate.
- On-going examination of alignment with the Smarter Balanced Assessments and Common Core standards are in effect.
- On-going program monitoring is in place. GATE training will continue with school psychologists, teachers, and other relevant stakeholders.