



GATE IDENTIFICATION FAQ's

April 2016

- Approximately 12,000 students are tested for GATE eligibility each year. All second grade students are universally tested as well as third, fourth, and fifth grade students who are new to the district. Additionally, fifth grade students who meet a certain criteria based upon their first GATE 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 uses multiple criteria to determine GATE eligibility.
 - The Ravens Progressive Matrices has been replaced with a more complete and valid 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 and purchase as the replacement for the Ravens Progressive Matrices. The CogAT is a psychometrically reliable and valid 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 series of three tests provide a more comprehensive assessment of fluid and crystallized intelligence than the Raven, while allowing us to assess non-English learners using more than simple non-verbal tests.
- The multi-factor GATE eligibility matrix includes multiple sources of data including test scores, grades, and special factors that are known to impact test scores. Matrix factors are weighted and 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 as in previous years.
- Results will be shared the same as in previous years through a letter sent 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 the above mentioned 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, School Psychology, and GATE departments 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, updated the GATE District Advisory Council on the identification process, including the CogAt assessment, and addressed parents' 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.