

GATE Identification Process

2015-16

The BOE approved a new multi-criterion process in the identification of students who are eligible for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Programs and Services. Representatives from DAC, School Psychology department and the GATE Program Office are in continuing discussions to further pursue how the GATE identification process will align with the GATE Program. The district has also been in ongoing communications with the IT department to finalize the multi-criterion GATE identification electronic reporting system.

Grades 2-5 will be tested utilizing the CogAT assessment battery as a component of the multi-criteria GATE identification process. This will include all second graders (universal testing), students new to the district grades 3- 5, and re-test at grade 5. Students new to the district in grades 6-12 will utilize existing assessment data from their prior districts through the newcomer multi-criterion process. Student's grades 6 – 12 will not be assessed with the CogAt.

There have been multiple stages in the roll out of the CogAT that have been in preparation and planning since May 2015. Part of this process was to identify computers at each site that would support the CogAT testing administration. Once site computers were identified, IT sent the CogAt browser to the computers (December). School Psychologists participated in training provided by Houghton Mifflin in January. Pilot schools administered the CogAt early March to identify any continuing IT needs.

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.

Please share with parents that we are all working together to resolve any remaining site IT issues impacting the administration of the CogAt. DAC representatives and district staff will continue to meet to finalize the multi-criterion identification process. District staff will also continue to work on the reporting system with IT and fully expect to have test results to school sites 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.