



GATE IDENTIFICATION FAQ's

October 2015

- 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 tests, were re-administered the test.
- A Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) task force was formed in November 2013 to examine and update the GATE identification process. This team consisted of community members, parents, GATE DAC members, school psychologists, and administrators. Outcomes from this group informed the new board approved changes.
- 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 creates a multi-criteria matrix to broaden the identification process.
 - The board also approved replacement of the Ravens Progressive Matrices with a current standardized, norm-referenced, web-based instrument. This type of assessment aligns with state computerized testing.
 - The Board authorized the purchase of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Inc.
- The multi-factor GATE eligibility matrix will include multiple sources of data including test scores, grades, teacher and parent input. The matrix is weighted with each criterion and includes various factors related to economic challenges, transiency, disabilities, and English language learners.
- The CogAT battery is now the District approved GATE assessment instrument for grades 2 – 5.
- 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.
- On-going examination of alignment with the Smarter Balanced Assessments and Common Core standards will be in effect.

- The current testing of students in grades 2-5 and re-test criteria will remain.
- Results will be shared the same way they are now via letter home to parents.
- 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 board approved the elimination of GATE testing after the fifth grade. This was due to the amount of available date for those students to make informed programming decisions beyond the Raven test.
- Currently, the Information Technology and School Psychology departments are coordinating with the publisher of the CogAT assessment to create the new multiple-criteria electronic reporting system.
- The District estimates that GATE testing will begin conducted in the spring of 2016.
- Revision to the existing Administrative Procedure will be revised as appropriate.
- On-going program monitoring will be in place through this process. GATE training will continue with school psychologists, teachers, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Continued meetings with various stakeholders will continue through this process.