



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Instructional Leaders
District Testing Coordinators
Gifted and Talented Coordinators

FROM: Dr. Christina Melton
Director, Office of Assessment and Standards

DATE: July 12, 2022

RE: Gifted and Talented Academic Identification Assessments

As mandated by SC Code Ann. § 59-29-170 and 2 SC Code Ann. Regs. 43-220, districts are required to provide services for all gifted and talented students at the elementary and secondary levels. Students are identified for this program by demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic and/or artistic areas. To meet this purpose, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) administers an aptitude test Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and an achievement assessment (Iowa) to second grade students, which meet the mandated requirements. All second-grade students must be administered these assessments.

Students must meet the criteria for two out of the three dimensions outlined in the law. Dimension A (Reasoning Abilities) requires students to demonstrate high aptitude (93rd national age percentile) in one or more of these areas: verbal/linguistic, quantitative/mathematical, nonverbal, and/or a composite of the three. A composite score of 96 percentile is an automatic qualifier. Dimension B (Achievement) requires that students demonstrate high achievement in reading and/or mathematical areas (94th national percentile) as measured by a nationally normed or statewide assessment.

To support districts in identifying gifted and talented students, the SCDE is pleased to provide a list of vetted assessments that meet the requirements under Regulation 43-220. The purpose of this list is to provide districts choices in second assessments for students in grades 3-12 who were not identified through the required universal screeners provided by the state. The list replaces any previous lists and is effective for the 2022–23 school year.

Dimension A: Aptitude

- CogAT
- Differential Ability Scales (DAS) – Second Edition
- Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3)
- Naglieri General Ability Test (V, NV, Q)*
- Raven’s Progressive Matrices
- Stanford – Binet Intelligence Scales, Fifth Edition (SB5)
- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children Fifth Edition (WISC-V)
- Woodcock-Johnson IV Tests of Cognitive Abilities (WJ IV COG)

Dimension B: Achievement

- i-Ready
- Iowa Assessments (IA)
- Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement, Third Edition (KTEA-3)
- MAP Growth
- Renaissance STAR*
- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) (Grade 3-8)
- SC READY
- Smarter Balanced (Grade 3-8)
- Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (Stanford 10)
- Woodcock-Johnson IV Tests of Achievement (WJ IV)

Aptitude test scores (Dimension A) are effective for five years and achievement scores are effective for two years.

*These assessments will be piloted for the 2022-2023 school year while the state and vendor collect data. Updates will be released for the 2023-2023 school year. Districts who are interested in using these assessments to identify students for gifted and talented services, should contact Josie Stratton by Thursday, September 1 at the email or telephone number listed below.

Please contact Susan Creighton at screight@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-8535 with assessment questions and Josie Stratton at jstratton@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-2782 with identification and programmatic questions.