



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Test Coordinators

FROM: Elizabeth Jones
Director, Office of Assessment

DATE: August 28, 2015

RE: Cognitive Abilities Test and the Iowa Assessments

This memorandum provides information regarding the fall 2015 administration of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and the Iowa Assessments (IA) administered to all students in grade 2. The results are used as part of the process for identifying students for the state-funded Gifted and Talented Program. The test window is October 21 through November 11, 2015. A make-up test window is scheduled for January 14–21, 2016.

Districts must submit Grade 2 PowerSchool data to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) by 9:00 a.m. on August 31. Precode Coordinators were alerted to this deadline during training on August 13, 2015. The contractor, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH)/Riverside, will use the precode data to print labels on the test booklets. It is important to submit the data by August 31 to avoid having to hand code students' demographic information on test booklets.

The SCDE Office of Assessment explored the feasibility of offering online administrations of the CogAT and IA assessments for the fall 2015 administration, but online testing is not possible at this time.

Test Coordinator Manuals are scheduled to arrive in the districts by September 16, 2015. Please note that the first part of the manual has been updated. Also, the number of copies of the *Directions for Administration* has been increased for each school so that School Test

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Coordinators can better accommodate the scheduling of individual and small group administrations.

Our Office of Assessment and HMH/Riverside will provide an in-person pretest workshop in Columbia on September 30, 2015. A pretest webinar for those who cannot attend the workshop will be provided on October 2, 2015. There will be a morning and an afternoon session. HMH/Riverside will provide District Test Coordinators with registration, location, and timing information in a future email.