

Intradistrict Communication

DATE: Friday, October 30, 2020

TO: Elementary Principals

FROM: Shelley Nordick, Ph.D., Administrator of Teaching and Learning
Ben Jameson, Director of Evaluation, Research and Accountability
Rebecca Smith, Consultant over ALPS/Gifted and Talented

SUBJECT: Universal CogAt Testing of 6th Grade Students Training and Test Administration

Principals are asked to share the following information with their school test coordinator and 6th grade teachers.

As approved by the Jordan School District Board of Education, we will administer the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to all 6th grade students in November and December of 2020 (similar to last year's test administration). The CogAT measures general reasoning abilities in three domains: verbal, quantitative and spatial. These abilities reflect the cognitive processes and strategies that enable individuals to learn new tasks and solve problems. The results of the assessment will:

- Inform middle school programming decisions.
- Identify students with high-potential in an equitable manner.
- Provide helpful data about students' abilities and needs.

The test will be administered online, during school hours. Students will need to use their own Chromebooks for this if schools have closed their stationary computer labs. We will need the testing coordinators for each school to proctor the testing. All testing coordinators need to complete a 30-60 minute online training that is offered multiple times during the next two weeks. We also recommend that an administrative designee (principal or assistant principal) sign up for the training as well, so they can help as needed.

The website used to sign up for the online training is: <https://info.riversideinsights.com/training-academy-home>

Here is a link to a video showing Testing Coordinators how to sign up for the training: <https://youtu.be/gf0nSpRroFo>

Dates and Times for training are:

- **Mon, Nov. 2, 2020 11:30 AM - 12:25 PM MST**
- **Tue, Nov. 3, 2020 1:30 PM - 2:25 PM MST**
- **Wed, Nov. 4, 2020 8:00 AM - 8:55 AM MST**
- **Thur, Nov. 5, 2020 3:30 PM - 4:25 PM MST**

- **Mon, Nov. 9, 2020 1:00 PM - 1:55 PM MST**
- **Tue, Nov. 10, 2020 3:00 PM - 3:55 PM MST**
- **Wed, Nov. 11, 2020 12:30 PM - 1:25 PM MST**

6th grade teachers are asked to help monitor the testing events. School administrators, 6th grade teachers, and the site testing coordinator can collaborate to set a testing schedule that will best meet the school's needs. **The CogAt testing window begins on Monday, November 9 and ends on Friday, December 4, 2020.**

The actual testing time is 90 minutes (with set up and instructions, plan for two hours). The test sections include:

- Quantitative – Three 10-minute subtests (the first testing session may take a few more minutes due to an optional, short system tutorial)
- Nonverbal – Three 10-minute subtests
- Verbal – Three 10-minute subtests

The assessment can be administered in three separate sessions across multiple days or within one day. It can also be administered in one complete session.

There are three practice tests that should be reviewed with students 1-5 days before test administration. The practice tests are designed to help students become familiar with the types of questions found on the assessment. Reviewing the practice tests will standardize the testing experience.

- Each practice test can be done as a whole class, using a projection system.
- A hardcopy of the practice assessments will be provided to each 6th grade teacher.
- Either the teacher or the proctor can review the practice tests with the students.

Within the next week, the Jordan District Communications office will distribute parent notification letters in regards to the CogAT testing. If parents choose to opt out of the assessment, they will bring the opt out form to the school. Results of the assessment will be shared with you and with parents after the assessment process is complete.

Online Students:

We are asking that each school provide a date and time for online students to come to the school and be tested. We recommend that this be done on a Friday, but we recognize that Fridays are limited in November. The test for online students must still be proctored; and parents will need to bring their students to the school for this as the test cannot be administered from home. If parents do not want to have their students participate, they need to fill out an [opt-out form](#) and bring it to the school.

For more information about the CogAT assessment, please visit:

- <https://www.riversideinsights.com/solutions/cogat>
- <https://www.riversideinsights.com/apps/cogat>

Please contact Kira Jensen (88112) or the Teaching & Learning staff member assigned to your school with any questions you may have.