

Important Information: Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) - 2nd Grade Universal Screening

Universal Screening

Based on feedback from families and the Colorado Department of Education, we are making improvements to our Universal Screening process. Beginning the spring of 2020, DCSD will transition from the “paper pencil” CogAT to the online version. The online assessment platform provides for easier administration, faster results, and access to the directions in multiple languages other than English. (NOTE: Language options for the Spring 2020 Testing Window are in process.) In addition, we are changing our Universal Screening grade from 3rd grade to 2nd grade as recommended by state and national guidance.

As part of this process, **ALL** students in **Grade 2** will take the **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT 8)** on **February 11, 12, 13**. This assessment indicates the level and pattern of cognitive development of a student in comparison to grade and age mates. These general reasoning abilities, which start developing at birth and continue through early adulthood, are influenced by experiences gained both in and out of school.

If your child is in 2nd grade and took the CogAT in September of 2019, you have the option to opt your child out of this testing window. Your Gifted Education Facilitator will contact you directly with information about this process.

Gifted Identification Referral Testing

DCSD will **NOT** have a second Referral Testing Window this school year (2019 - 2020). The next testing window will be in the fall of the 2020 - 2021 school year.

If your child is in a grade other than 2nd, [and you believe he/she needs evaluation for the 2020-2021 school year Gifted Identification and Services](#), **and you have not done so already**, please initiate the Gifted Identification Referral Process by completing the referral form linked [HERE](#)

NOTE: Completing this referral form WILL NOT initiate the CogAT assessment.

Upon receipt of this form the Gifted Education Facilitator will be connect with you to discuss next steps in the process.