



Second-grade testing for highly capable and gifted programs

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and Structure of Intelligence (SOI) testing for secondgrade students occurs in early spring. These tests—along with the Stanford Ten reading and math tests—qualify students for the District’s highly capable and gifted programs, SAGE and MERLIN, which students can enter as third graders. All second-grade students will take the assessments in their classrooms.

Preparation for students

The best way to help students prepare for these tests is to make sure they are well rested on assessment days. Their entire school career has prepared them for the questions, so no studying is required. The CogAT is made up of three one-hour-long sections. The SOI is about thirty minutes long. Please encourage your student to simply do his or her best and not to worry. A relaxed approach actually results in the highest and most accurate test scores.

What does the test mean?

Because these test are primarily used for placement in highly capable and gifted programs, some students may find them very challenging. This may not be an indication of students’ academic ability—it may be more of a reflection of maturity and readiness right now. Teachers will encourage students to give their best effort, but they also have the flexibility to provide other alternatives for a student if the test is causing too much stress and anxiety. In those cases, the student will participate in a quiet activity like reading during the test period.

If you have specific questions please check with your child’s teacher or call the Executive Director of Elementary Education office at (425) 837-7025. Information about the districts highly capable and gifted programs is online at www.issaquah.wednet.edu. Click on “Departments” on the left-hand menu, then “Gifted/Highly Capable.”