



What is the Iowa Assessment?

The *Iowa Assessments* are a nationally normed achievement test. These assessments measure achievement in several important content areas including Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. These assessments help teachers identify a student's strengths and areas that may need additional emphasis. Fulton County administers the Iowa to students in grades 3, 5, and 8 in October each year. The Iowa Assessments are administered in several testing sessions for a total of 4 hours and 55 minutes of testing.

How is the Iowa Assessment different from the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)?

The publishers of the ITBS released a new norm referenced test in 2010 – The Iowa Assessments Form E. The Iowa Assessment Form E contains content that is more relevant to our current population and is more aligned with our current content standards.

How will the Iowa Assessment be used for screening and referral for TAG testing?

The Fulton County School System screens students for eligibility for gifted services twice a year through the Automatic Referral period and the classroom screening instrument. Students meeting either the automatic screening OR classroom screening criteria AND having supporting data gathered from test history, products, and/or advanced content levels are referred for gifted testing.

I. Automatic Referral- Students who score at specified levels on the Iowa assessment and have supporting data gathered from test history, products and/or advanced content levels may be referred for additional assessment to determine eligibility for gifted program services. Students must have minimally a score of $\geq 85^{\text{th}}$ percentile and $\geq 90^{\text{th}}$ percentile in a combination of two of the three areas: Total Reading, Total Math, and Complete Battery. Supporting data is needed.

II. Classroom Screening - Classroom teachers use the *Characteristics Instrument for Screening Students (CISS)* to identify students with superior abilities in five or more of the following areas: motivation, interests, communications skills, problem-solving abilities, memory, inquiry, insight, reasoning, creativity, and humor. Students who meet the CISS screening criteria, and have supporting data may be referred for additional assessment to determine eligibility for gifted services. The Iowa assessment may be used for supporting data if the student has minimally a score of $\geq 85^{\text{th}}$ percentile and $\geq 90^{\text{th}}$ percentile in a combination of two of the three areas: Total Reading, Total Math, and Complete Battery.

How will the Iowa Assessment be used for determining eligibility for gifted services?

Eligibility for gifted services is determined by *State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.38*. A student may qualify under Option A or Option B as defined by the *GaDOE Resource Manual for Gifted Education Services*:

Option A:

Score at the 99th percentile (for grades K-2) or the 96th percentile (for grades 3-12) on the composite or full scale score of a norm-referenced test of mental ability and score at or

above the 90 % percentile on the total battery, total math or total reading section(s) of a norm-referenced achievement test.

Option B

Students may qualify through a multiple-criteria assessment process by meeting the criteria in any three of the following four areas: mental ability, achievement, creativity, and motivation.

The Iowa Assessment is a nationally norm-referenced achievement test that may be used for Option A or Option B for students who score 90% or above in total battery, total math or total reading sections.

How will the Iowa Assessment be used for determining middle school placement decisions for gifted services?

In addition to eligibility requirements for gifted services, gifted students are placed in advanced content courses in Science and/or Social Studies classes on the basis of achievement scores, past academic performance, and teacher recommendation.

Initial Placement Guidelines -Students who meet the following criteria may be placed into TAG Science and/or TAG Social Studies

- Recommendation from the current teacher of the content area(s)
- 90% average or better in the content area(s)
- Test scores within two years on a nationally-normed achievement test as follows:
 - Social Studies at or above the 90th percentile in Social Studies
 - Science at or above the 90th percentile in Science

Additionally, Alternative Placement criteria exist for placement in TAG Science or Social Studies only as follows:

- The rising sixth grade student who is eligible for gifted services but does not meet the initial middle school placement criteria for any content area.
- The rising sixth, seventh, or eighth grade student who would like to add an additional placement but does not meet the middle school placement criteria for that specific content area.

Alternate Placement Guidelines-The following criteria may be used to add a TAG Science or Social studies class. Alternative Placement Criteria may be used to add only one placement.

- Eligible for TAG services
- Recommendation of teacher of the content area- this recommendation must be content specific and support placement utilizing professional judgement.
- Two of the following, with at least one addressing the specific content area
 - Final class average of 90% or higher in previous grade in content area
 - Multiple work samples or products that are exemplary in nature (for example: Science or Social Studies Fair placement)
 - Iowa Achievement score \geq 90% in Total Reading
 - Final class average of 80% or greater in an advanced or accelerated math or language arts class

How can I help my child prepare for these instruments?

Preparation for any of assessment instrument can not be done within a short period of time. Knowledge or skills needed are developed as a result of all school and life experiences. It is best for you to ensure that your child is well rested and has a nutritious breakfast for each day of school.