

## Information Paper

**SUBJECT:** Elementary Gifted Education Services Update (Grades K-5)

**PURPOSE:** To provide information on the status of the K-5 gifted education services.

**BACKGROUND:** In June 2018, eight DoDEA elementary schools field tested the online CogAT screening assessment, which is published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. The eight Phase I schools also participated in the new elementary gifted education program revision. In June 2018, an additional 30 schools were selected as part of the Phase II implementation process. The goal of the revised program is to provide advanced learning opportunities for **all** students utilizing a multileveled approach that provides intentional collaboration between our Gifted Resource Teachers (GRTs) and elementary classroom teachers.

**DISCUSSION:** According to best practice in gifted education, universal screening (testing of all students at a given grade level) is an effective means of reducing the potential disproportionate representation of minority, low income, twice exceptional, and English language learners. Additionally, best practice recommends that younger students be screened for gifted education services.

Providing a screening assessment of ability levels to all second grade students is a part of the diagnostic portion of the DoDEA Comprehensive Assessment System. All second grade students will be screened during the February 4 – March 1, 2019 assessment window. The online assessment can be administered in a group setting. Professional learning will be provided to the school's assessment teams and second grade teachers and other proctors.

The screening process will assist in determining whether students need more challenging services. DoDEA is moving away from identifying students for a "gifted label," and instead focuses on determining strengths and needs of advanced learners and meeting their needs by determining appropriate level of service. Level I includes services for *all* students, where the GRTs teach critical and creative thinking lessons in the regular classrooms. Level II includes services for *many* students, such that students who need an occasional challenge should receive those services. Level III includes services for *some* students, who need more frequent, complex, and challenging services. Level IV services are for the *few* students who need content or grade-level acceleration. This may occur for students in any grade level, based on data collected, along with appropriate social-emotional skills, which indicate this advanced need.

**NEXT STEPS:** Once training for CogAT administration and screening is complete, GRTs will be able to administer the CogAT full battery assessment to any student, beginning in kindergarten, who may need an aptitude test as part of the referral process for gifted education services. Beginning in March 2019, CogAT will be the only approved primary aptitude assessment, which may be used *in conjunction with* additional data collected for any elementary student referred for gifted education services. These may include a parent questionnaire, observations of the student, student interview, and a portfolio of student work.

Beginning in School Year 2019-20, all elementary schools will gradually implement the revised program, in accordance with the new elementary gifted education services policy that will be in effect. All GRTs will receive professional learning during their duty day in order to ensure fidelity of the new program. In addition, a realignment of the staffing formula for gifted resource teachers will allow the schools to meet the new delivery model system-wide.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

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## **Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT) Update Information Paper**

**Subject:** SAT and ACT Update

**Overview:**

The purpose of this information paper is to provide updates for SAT and ACT assessments.

**Background:**

- During the school year 2017-2018, College Board reduced the number of SAT testing dates for international sites to four administration dates. DoDEA leadership contacted College Board to appeal this decision to request additional testing opportunities for our students. DoDEA has approximately 3600 attempts for Europe and Pacific for the four SAT administration dates in school year 2017-2018. Some of these are repeat attempts as DoDEA students typically complete 1-3 SAT attempts for their high school career.
- For School Year 2018-2019, ACT made the decision to transition the ACT test from its legacy format on paper to a computer-based (CBT) format for all testing outside the United States. Twenty-eight DoDEA schools established themselves as an ACT International Test Center. These schools selected testing dates from six available ACT exam dates.

**Way Forward:**

- College Board announced that they will be adding a fifth administration date for overseas centers beginning in 2020-2021. The anticipated overseas SAT dates for school year 2020-2021 are August 29, October 3, December 5, March 13, and May 8.
- ACT exams were administered in the Pacific, Europe, and Cuba on October 27, 2018. Two hundred thirty students completed the ACT exams using laptop devices. Students are eligible to receive an ACT test fee waiver. As of December 2018, an average of 245 students participate in the online administration of ACT in Europe, Pacific, and Cuba.

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