

# Admissions process for academically talented program

June 12, 2008

Admissions Process For Elementary Academically Talented (A.T.) Program\*

Question: How are grade 2 students identified for the Academically Talented Program? Answer:

- March – Teachers administer the Structure of Intellect (SOI) Test and the Degrees of Reading Power (DRP) Test to all second graders.
- Aug. /Sept. – A committee of teachers and administrators identifies students eligible for the program. A.T. Teachers distribute permission slips to parents to test borderline students further.
- September/October – Parents are notified, and A.T. classes begin in third grade.

Question: How are students in grades 3, 4, and 5 identified for the Academically Talented program? How do parents nominate a child?

Answer:

- September– January: If parent wishes to nominate a child, a completed Parent Nomination Form, available in your school office, should be submitted to the Academically Talented teacher.
- Parents may nominate a child only once in elementary school.
- Parents new to the district may submit the form between September and November (see Question 3)
- September– March: Teachers wishing to nominate a student submit the Assessment of Characteristics Form to the A.T. teacher.
- March: All records are gathered, and the Permission to Test form is sent home for students who need additional testing.
- April: A.T. teacher administers DRP and/or SOI tests to nominees as needed.
- June: A Central Office PPT is held to identify fifth grade students, and parents are notified.
- June: A.T. teachers give the Slosson Test to fifth grade nominees with borderline scores.

- **August-September:** A Central Office PPT is held, and third/fourth grade students are identified as Academically Talented. The Slosson Test is administered to third and fourth grade nominees with borderline Matrix scores.
- **Start of School Year:** Parents are notified by mail, of candidate status, and A.T. classes begin.

**Question: What is the nomination sequence for students new to the system after the school year has begun? Answer:**

- **September – November (of the entrance year):** Parents may obtain the Parent Nomination Form (available in the school office) or the classroom teacher may fill out an Assessment of Characteristics Form to initiate the process.
- **Submit the completed Parent Nomination Form to the A.T. teacher in your child's school.**
- **November:** Classroom teachers return the completed nomination forms to A.T. teacher. A.T. teacher will gather all student information and will send home a Permission to Test form.
- **December:** A.T. teachers administer the SOI or DRP to nominees if these scores are not in student's transcript.
- **January:** Committee identifies eligibility. The A.T. teacher administers the Slosson test to borderline students.
- **February:** Parents of eligible children are notified, and A.T. classes begin.

**Question: What are the criteria for consideration and/or acceptance into the elementary Academically Talented program? Answer:**

- There are three components : (1) Assessment of Characteristics Form, (2) Structure of Intellect Test (SOI), (3) Reading portion of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) or the Degree of Reading Power Test (DRP).

**Question: May I appeal the committee's decision if my child is not admitted to the program? Answer:**

- **Yes.** If your child is not accepted, you may appeal the committee's decision once during elementary school. If your child is in grades 4-5, you have the right to send a letter of intent to appeal to Joan Glass, Instructional Specialist in charge of the A.T. Program, Norwalk Public Schools, 125 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06852. You will then be scheduled to meet with a committee of teachers and administrators to discuss your child's eligibility for the program. Following the appeals process, the committee's decision is final.

**\*For further information, please refer to the A.T. section of the Norwalk Public Schools Elementary Handbook.**