

NC HOME SCHOOL TESTING INFORMATION

Compiled by Debbie Thompson (Triangle Education Assessments, LLC, www.TriangleEd.com, 877-843-8837, dthompson@triangleed.com)

and Diane Allen (www.dallenassociates.com, dallentesting@nc.rr.com)

Copyright 2011 Debbie Thompson and Diane Allen 8.22.11

1. Who has to test their home schooler?

Under North Carolina law, <http://www.ncdnpe.org/>, each home school registered with the Department of Non-Public Education (DNPE) must have a nationally standardized achievement test administered annually to each student at least age 7 and not yet age 16 (unless applying for or wishing to retain an NC driver's license). If your child starts the school year at 16 and is listed with DNPE you need to test him/her. To learn more about other state's homeschool laws refer to the Laws section of the Home School Legal Defense Association website at <http://www.hslda.org/laws/>.

2. Why should my child be tested?

- Home school parents who work closely with their children every day usually know quite accurately where their children are academically.
- Standardized tests can affirm both your child's learning progress and your teaching ability. An objective evaluation can encourage teacher and student and also provide confirmation of your success to other family members, friends, and the state, where required.
- Standardized tests might also point out weaknesses that you may not have noticed.
- You can then work to improve in these areas.
- It is NC State law to test a home schooler each year if the student is at least 7 years old and not yet 16 years old or doesn't have their license and wants to apply for one.

3. When do I need to test?

The NCDNPE (North Carolina Department of Non-Public Education, <http://www.ncdnpe.org/>) webpage states that tests should be ordered by February 1 each year. This is not a law but a good recommendation is to start even sooner in lining up your test and date. WJ III administrators' calendars fill up very quickly. Though the NCDNPE also states that home schoolers should test in the spring and specifically during the same week of your choice between March 1 and April 15, they accept scores from any month of the year. (WJ III is normed to any month of the year. Most other standardized tests have norms for fall, midyear, and spring.)

4. Which subjects need to be tested?

The test must be nationally standardized and involve the subject areas of grammar, reading, spelling and mathematics. Officials at the DNPE recommend that middle and high school students also have social studies and science evaluated whenever applicable.

5. Who does NCDNPE want to administer the test?

The NCDNPE recommends (it is not law) that the test not be administered or scored by relatives, guardians, or anyone living in the same household as the student. They also state that:

- An educational institution/organization is preferred.
- Machine-scoring is most ideal. (Always allow at least eight weeks to receive test results if the test is machine scored.)

6. Who can give the test as per the test publishers?

- Woodcock-Johnson III can only be given by a specially trained administrator.
- Iowa requires the administrator to have a BA degree.
- California Achievement Test can be given by parents without degrees.
- Stanford requires the administrator to have a BA degree.
- PASS can be given by parents for grades 3-8.
- BASI can be given by parents for grades 3-12 but computerized version has to be done at a school or test center.
- Brigance can be given by parents for special needs at developmental levels of age & or below.
- ACT has to be done at a school authorized through www.act.org.

7. What do I do with the test results?

Records of the test results must be retained at the school for at least one year and made available to the DNPE when requested. After you have home schooled 3 years the DNPE will ask you to voluntarily send in a copy of your scores and attendance form. This is not mandatory.

As one homeschool leader says: "NCHE recommends you participate in the voluntary inspection by mail program. There is no team of social workers, teachers or anyone else who pours over the results. ALL results are destroyed after 3 years. The kinds of test that we give (nationally normed, standardized tests) are not pass/ fail tests."

8. Which standardized test should I use?

Nationally normed standardized

As of March 6, 2010 the DNPE includes these approved tests on their website:

1. **Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement (WJ III Nu is the latest version):**

The WJ must be given by a specially trained administrator, usually in their home. It is oral/written format and usually takes 1 to 1.5 hours to complete. An immediate computerized report is given and usually a short consultation. The WJ also has a cognitive processing battery which can be given by someone properly licensed or working under the supervision of someone licensed. Calculation aids other than scratch paper are not permitted.

2. **Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) for grades K-8 and also called Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED) for Grades 9-12:**

The Iowa gives a lot of sub-scores, so you can see more clearly how your child did on each different subject. The Iowa Test publishers require someone with a B.A. to administer the Iowa test. It is easily administered and provides the required information for a very reasonable cost. Calculators are allowed for Grades 3 – 12 on some sections.

Many large support groups provide this test. Many public school districts in NC have used this test to assess students' progress. It is multiple choice and fill-in –the bubble in format. The complete battery takes 2.5 - 4.5 hours for grades K-2; 5.5 hours for grades 3-8 and 4.5 hours for grades 9-12.

3. **California Achievement Test (CAT/5):**

The CAT can usually be given by anyone. It is multiple choice and fill-in –the bubble in format. The CAT has a survey version which takes about 4 hours. The complete battery takes about 6-8 hours.

4. **Stanford/10 Achievement Test:**

Stanford/10 tests requires the administrator to have a BA degree. Many private schools use the Stanford. It is multiple choice and fill-in –the bubble in format. Approximate testing times are 3-5 hours over 3 days for K5-grade 3, 5.5 hours over 3

days for grades 4-8, and 3.5 hours over 2 days for grades 9-12 but generally speaking, it is un-timed and flexible in format.

5. PASS Test:

Personalized Achievement Summary System Test (PASS), a norm-referenced test especially developed for home schoolers in grades 3-8 by Hewitt. Results show both overall achievement and performance in each of the three subjects, which are reading, math and language. The PASS is an un-timed test. Testing twice a year is recommended to obtain a more accurate measure of achievement. It is multiple choice and fill-in –the bubble in format. You must give a placement test before the actual achievement test. It is not truly nationally normed but the states of Alaska, New York, and North Carolina have officially approved the PASS Test for purposes of state reporting.

6. BASI Test:

Basic Achievement Skills Inventory Test, a nationally normed test for grades 3-12. It is multiple choice and delivered by paper/pencil or by computer in Triangle Assessments' Test Center. Parents can administer the test. Takes under 2 hours. Computer testing results are immediate, while the paper/pencil results are delivered in 1 – 3 weeks. Calculation aids other than scratch paper are not permitted.

7. Brigance:

For special needs students with a developmental age of 7 or below.

8. ACT:

For high schoolers, primarily. This test is often used for college entrance, too.

9. What differences exist between the tests in question 8 (above)?

The test formats are different. Tests #2 thru #6 and #8 (listed for question 8 above) are multiple-choice and fill-in-the-bubble format. Only test 6, the BASI, can be delivered by computer, though some private schools offer the Stanford/10 Online. The Brigance mostly measures developmentally aged appropriate skills and offers checklists for the parent to fill out.

10. What is the cost difference between the tests?

The cost difference between the IOWA, CAT, Stanford, PASS, BASI, ACT and the Woodcock-Johnson reflects the amount of labor involved administering and scoring the test as well as the training and experience of the test provider. In addition, immediate results are received with WJ III and usually a short consultation is given along with the report. A WJ III administrator will be able to answer questions about your child's scores as well as provide insight into their performance based on observations made during the test. In addition, an administrator who also home schools should be able to advise the parent and provide insight into curriculum choices and planning as well.

11. What is the difference between the Woodcock Johnson III (WJ III) and the bubble sheet type tests?

- One **significant difference** between the **WJ III and bubble type tests** is the range of difficulty of test items used and the generation of Grade Equivalency (GE) scores. Multiple choice, grade specific tests (like the IOWA, CAT, Stanford and PASS) are composed of items within a limited range of difficulty. WJ III administrators give students questions up to any grade level that they can accomplish correctly within certain ranges. Therefore, the WJ III GE score better reflects what the student can accomplish. In addition, a Relative Mastery Index predicts the student's success with grade level material. These scores and others aid the parent in deciding which areas may need improvement and which areas are accelerated for that student.

- On the other hand, the Iowa, CAT, and Stanford provide many more subcategory scores for each subject, are less expensive and can be easily completed for classes or groups of multiage/grade children.
- The WJ and BASI give an immediate score report.

12. Why Choose the Woodcock Johnson III Achievement Test?

This test is ideal for these situations:

- The child's other test scores are extremely high or low for grade level or they do not reflect true performance.
- The child is very young, his attention wanders, he is easily distracted or he has trouble with timed tests.
- The child is reading very well or very poorly for his age.
- The parents feel the need for outside input regarding their child's achievement level and/or curriculum choices.
- The parents needs or prefers to get test scores immediately and have them explained thoroughly.
- The child appears to be struggling in certain areas and a more thorough evaluation for learning disabilities is desired.

13. Why choose the Iowa, CAT/5, Stanford (SAT/10), BASI of the ACT Achievement Test?

- Iowa, CAT/5, and SAT/10 test score reports give more categories than the WJIII basic achievement package for understanding a student's academic performance. Science, Social Studies and sources of information scores are given in Iowa reports.
- Iowa permits group testing. (Grades 3-8 and 9-12 can be given together using The Iowa Tests.)
- BASI permits all grades (3-12) to test at the same time, whether pencil/paper or done on the computer.
- The Iowa, CAT/5 and SAT/10 format is similar to college entrance exams formats.
- Iowa, CAT/5, SAT/10, and BASI tests are less expensive than a WJ III.
- Iowa tests can be administered in the student's familiar environment by a parent or someone with a bachelor's degree.
- Iowa, CAT/5 and SAT/10 tests are more widely given in public and private schools across the nation.
- The IOWA, CAT/5 and SAT/10 substitutes for the NC 8th Grade Competency Test for homeschool students returning to public high school.
- CAT/5 offers a survey edition which is very quick to give and parents with no degree can give it.
- Stanford/10 is untimed with flexible guidelines and nearly all grades can test together on all tests.
- The Homeschool National Honor society accepts the Iowa, CAT/5 and SAT/10 scores when done in a group setting but not the WJ III or BASI scores at this time.
- The BASI only takes 2 hours or less.
- The ACT can also count for many college's entrance test requirement.

14. Should I test with the Iowa or Stanford achievement test?

Both of these tests are top-rated, nationally standardized tests. Both of them evaluate thinking skills, provide thorough results, and are designed to accomplish the same purposes. Neither is more "difficult" than the other. Whichever test you choose, there are advantages to using the same test from year to year or at least 2 years in a row.

- Stanford tests evaluate listening skills through grade 8, Iowa through grade 2.

- Stanford permits a wider grade range of students to be tested at the same time in an untimed, flexible format. Iowa can be administered to grades 3-8 together and grades 9-12 together, while with Stanford you can group grades 4-12 with the exception of a test or two.
- Stanford usually takes longer to administer.

15. How do I choose the grade level of the test?

Most of the time it is prudent to choose the test level based on what grade the child would be in if enrolled in a traditional school. If the child is working above or below grade level in a majority of subjects, then you might choose to use a test on that grade level to get the most accurate and helpful results. In order to make the most practical use of the scores you should not test above your child's reading level. In NC, parents choose the grade level of the test for their children.

16. Where do I get a nationally standardized test for my home schooler?

This information provided by:

Debbie Thompson, M.A.

Triangle Education Assessments, LLC

We provide a homeschool testing center with computer labs and tutoring rooms.

The Iowa Tests Distributor (achievement, cognitive, career and practice), BASI, Brigance, Woodcock-Johnson III Administrator – home offices in Apex, Cary, Raleigh, Durham and Wake Forest, NC areas and travel to other NC areas

Interest Explorer - Career Test

Practice Materials

Ph 919-387-7004, Cell 919-274-7495, Email preferred: orders@triangleed.com

www.TriangleEd.com

Triangle Education Assessments, LLC (www.TriangleEd.com) offers

- The Iowa Tests® (ITBS and ITED®) for grades K-12 in complete battery format, with group discounts available. Iowa Test administrators must have a bachelor's degree. Discounted group rates are available.
- The Woodcock-Johnson® III Tests of Achievement (WJ III® and WJ III®Nu) for PreK-college. They are offered primarily in the Raleigh/Durham, NC area.
- The WIIP report of instructional interventions and strategies is offered along with the WJ when recommended. Triangle Education Assessments, LLC has offered the Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Cognitive Abilities in the past but currently gives referrals for those or offers
- The CogAT for learning styles and giftedness program eligibility.
- The Brigance for special needs
- The BASI for grades 3 – 12.
- The career tests: Interest Explorer and Career Direct
- The practice tests: Iowa Practice Test, CogAT/OLSAT practice test, Test for Success, Scoring High on the Iowa Test and Scoring High on the Stanford Test.
- Group testing options are available as well as SAT prep and other tutoring.

Diane Allen & Associates

Woodcock-Johnson Testing and Consulting

Individual Help for the Homeschool family

Telephone: (919) 552-4001

E-Mail address: dallentesting@nc.rr.com, <http://www.dallenassociates.com>

Diane Allen & Associates offer the Woodcock-Johnson Achievement Battery (WJIII ® & WJIII®NU) and topic focused consultations to assist home-school parents in a variety of areas – including: customized curriculum suggestions; home-schooling high school

(developing a high school course plan; preparing a transcript, accessing dual enrollment and Testing Info. - 6 -

© 2011 Debbie Thompson and Diane Allen

applying for college admission) and beginning homes-school. The WIIP report of instructional interventions and strategies is offered along with the WJ when recommended. Most services are provided in Wake County but associates may travel to other areas in special circumstances. Group testing options are available.

Other Test Suppliers: The Division of Non-Public Education (DNPE) has a list of other places to purchase tests at their website: <http://www.ncdpe.org>.

Here are a few test suppliers - this list is NOT comprehensive! Most of the information was taken from the www.ncdpe.org website 3.6.10:

Remember that local evaluators and support groups may also offer testing in your area.

- www.ACT.org (ACT)
- ATC Educational Services (WJ), (919) 266-2228, www.atced.com
- Bayside School Services (CAT), P.O. Box 250, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948, (800) 723-3057. www.BaysideSchoolServices.com
- Bob Jones University Press (Iowa, Stanford, CogAT, OLSAT and practice tests), Greenville, SC 29614, (800) 845-5731 www.bjup.com. (They also offer the Cognitive Abilities Test and the Otis Lennon School Ability Test, which do NOT meet NC's testing requirement.) They only allow "qualified" people to administer the tests, and you must provide "proof that the student being tested is currently being home schooled"
- Brewer Testing Services (Iowa, BASI, Kaufmann and WJ), 2853 Davis Road, East Bend, NC 27018, (336) 699-3997. pat@brewertesting.com, www.brewertesting.com
- Diane Allen & Associates Educational Services (WJ III), 804 Cricket Knoll Road, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526, (919) 552-4001, dallentesting@nc.rr.com, www.dallenassociates.com
- ED-CORE Educational Services, 2610 New Walkertown Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27101, (336) 723-3100, lbhopson@dr.com
- Hewitt Educational Resources (PASS. It is recommended to do it twice a year.) P.O. Box 9, Washougal, WA 98671, (360) 835-8708, ww.hewitthomeschooling.com/test/tmain.asp
- Lighthouse Educational Services (WJ III), 113 Wynfield Drive, Clayton, NC 27520, (919) 302-5786, lighthouseedu@nc.rr.com. www.lighthouseedu.net
- McGettrick Testing Center 106 Quartermaine Court, Cary, NC 27513 (919) 469-0924, jmcgettrick@nc.rr.com
- Piedmont Education Services (CAT/5 and practice tests), 1629 Turfwood Drive Pfafftown, NC 27040, (336) 924-2494, gmunger@triad.rr.com, www.pesdirect.com
- Southeast Education Associates, (CAT) P.O. Box MM, Saltville, VA 24370, (276) 496-7777 www.aopse.com
- Smoky Mountain Academic Resources & Training (WJ III), Asheville, NC. www.smarttesting.net
- The Sycamore Tree (CAT) www.mailordercentral.com/sycamoretree/
- Thurber's Educational Assessments (CAT), (919) 967-5282, www.thurbers.net
- Triangle Education Assessments (Iowa, WJ III, CogAT, Career Direct, Interest Explorer and practice tests) 5512 Merion Station Drive, Apex, NC 27539, (919) 387-7004, orders@triangleed.com, www.TriangleEd.com

REMEMBER: Don't wait until the last minute to order your tests! It takes time to order them, receive them, give them, and get the results returned.

17. What do the terms on the reports mean?

These scores usually appear most standardized achievement tests:

RAW: Raw score - The number of questions a student gets right.

SS: Developmental Standard Score: This number describes a student's location on an achievement continuum. The scale corresponds to typical performances of grade groups on

each test at certain times of the year. They have no built-in meaning. To interpret the SS, Testing Info. - 7 -

© 2011 Debbie Thompson and Diane Allen

the values associated with typical performance in each grade must be used as reference points. These numbers are used to compute other statistics.

GE: Grade Equivalent is a number that gives the student's location on an achievement continuum and describes performance in terms of grade level and month. For example, if a fourth grader scores 5.6 on a test, his/her score is like the one a student at the end of the 6th month of 5th grade would likely score. It means the student scored as well as the average student in the sixth month of the fifth grade would have scored. (High achieving student's typically gain more than 10 months in a year.) These scores are particularly useful for measuring individual growth from one year to the next. It measures a student's developmental level, and IS NOT a prescription for grade placement. A high GE or low GE is mainly a sign of exceptional or low performance. (Use percentile ranks to analyze strengths and weaknesses or standing within a group.) GE scores are best suited to estimate a student's developmental status or year-to-year growth.

NS: National Stanine: This statistic is a coarse grouping of percentile ranks or normalized standard scores that range from 1 to 9 and have an average value of 5. They are less precise measures of student achievement than percentile ranks but are convenient to use to identify areas of strength and weakness. They do not describe a student's developmental level or measure growth.

PR: 1-3 4-10 11-22 23-39 40-59 60-76 77-88 89-95 96-99

S: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

NCE: Normal Curve Equivalent: Normalized standard scores. They have a mean of 50 and standard deviation of 21.06. They range from 1 to 99. They must be converted to other scores like percentile ranks or stanines to be used.

NPR: National Percentile Rank: These percentiles show a student's standing within the group of student's in the same grade who were tested at the same time of year during the national standardization. These are especially useful for profile analysis and determining the areas of relative strength and weakness for an individual student. A percentile rank of 72 means the student scored better than 72 percent of the other children in the same grade in the norming sample. Percentile ranks range from 1 to 99 and are less useful than grade equivalents for estimating or monitoring growth. A student's percentile rank is a score that shows the percent of student's in a particular group that got lower raw scores on a test than the student did.

18. Did you know that in NC...

- Some tests can be administered by parents.
- The parent determines the grade level of the child.
- Home educated children do NOT have to take the EOG test, computer test, or NC tests.
- National standardized achievement tests can be used to register your child for TIP - Duke's gifted program or the Davidson Institute.
- Only scores in reading/language art and math testing are required.
- You may order an achievement test from the test companies provided above.
- Not all suppliers have the same requirements for test administrators. For example BJUP has more restrictions than other suppliers for the same test.
- Testing does not have to be done at a 'testing site'. It may be done in your home.
- Testing does not have to be done in a group setting.
- Testing does not have to be done in your support group or local public school.
- Studies have shown that students do better being tested in familiar surroundings, and for home schoolers, that would be home.

19. How can I prepare my child for testing?

If you are concerned about testing, consider looking at some test prep materials. The Test for Success series with lesson plans, (which prepares students for most all standardized achievement tests,) and the Spectrum workbooks (which are more generic, not geared to a particular test, and less expensive) are popular choices. (Test for Success is available from www.HomeSchoolerTests.com while Spectrum can be found through Rainbow Resource and bookstores like Borders and/or Barnes & Noble.) These might help a child who has never have taken a test before understand what it's going to be like, so they are comfortable emotionally with the testing and have experience with different types of multiple choice questions.

- Having your child see and maybe work through some test prep materials can not only help your child be comfortable with testing, it can de-mystify the testing for you, too. Most of these tests are pretty much just multiple-choice worksheets.
- You might want to explain to your children that testing is something they must do to follow the law; it will show parents the things they have learned; they should try to do their best, but not worry too much about it. You can tell them that some questions will probably be very easy for them while some might be too hard for them. They should not spend too much time on the difficult questions but should give them their best guess.

20. Checklist for the Day of the Test

Compiled from many sources including an article by Ruth Beechick, Dorothy Karman, and Gregory Cizek in the February/March 1990 Teaching Home, reprinted with permission.

- Plan ahead for a peaceful, unhurried evening and morning before the test.
 - Check directions to the testing site and plan to leave and arrive early to avoid stress before the test.
 - Make sure your child sleeps well, eats a healthy breakfast, and gets enough water to drink.
 - Be prepared with necessary tools such as extra pencils or calculators if allowed.
 - If this is your child's first test, you may want to be present in the back of the room for at least part of the time to relieve his anxiety.
 - Be sure your child understands what to do if he needs to go to the bathroom during the test. Try to prevent this need.
 - Avoid conversations between other students and your child before a test; anxiety is contagious.
 - Pray with your child that he will remember what he has learned and do his best.
- Thank the Lord that He promised to always be with your child and take good care of him.

21. What Test-Taking Skills Can I Teach My Child?

There are specific skills and strategies involved in taking tests that can help your child do his best.

1. Directions

- Always listen to and read the directions carefully; don't assume that you already know them. Sometimes they change only slightly, but significantly, from one section to the next.
- Ask the instructor to explain any directions that you do not understand.
- Be sure you know how and where to mark the answers, especially if they are on a separate sheet.
- Mark answers carefully and neatly, filling in the blanks completely so that it will be graded correctly.

2. Wording

___ Watch out for wording such as "Which of the following is not true?" or for answers that sound or look similar.

___ On a true or false question, look for the words never, always, only, best.

3. Attitude

___ Relax by taking several slow, deep breaths and changing your position from time to time.

___ Remember that you know a lot of information and that you are doing your best to show what you know.

___ Breathe a short prayer for the Lord's help (as prayed earlier).

4. Pacing

___ Since most tests are timed, don't get bogged down on a question that you can't answer or are unsure about.

___ Answer the items you are sure of first. This builds confidence, and you won't miss points on easy questions by running out of time.

___ Skip difficult questions and place an "x" by the number of the question in the margin on the answer sheet.

___ Answer questions that you're not sure of the best you can and mark them with a "?" in the margin.

___ When you have answered all the other questions, answer the questions with an "X" in the margin and recheck questions you marked with "?".

5. Helps

___ If you need to, look back at the reading selection to check facts and ideas.

___ Try each answer in the blank to help you decide which one sounds right.

___ Remember, sometimes there are no mistakes to be found or two answers can be correct and you must choose the answer that includes them both.

___ When you are not sure, eliminate answers you know are incorrect and take your best guess among the rest. Some of your guesses may be right.

6. Math

___ On arithmetic test items, do a quick estimate with rounded-off numbers. This will help you avoid "silly" mistakes and may even help you locate the only possible answer.

___ When you copy a math problem onto scratch paper, line up the numbers carefully and double check your copying.

___ Check math problems by reversing operations.

7. Timing

___ Use all the time allotted for the test; review your test if you finish early.

___ Recheck the directions, questions, and your answers.

___ Do not change answers unless they are obviously wrong

___ Don't panic when students start handing in their papers. There's no reward for being the first.

22. What other types of tests and honor programs are available?

A. Practice Tests

1. **Iowa Practice Test** - Available through www.TriangleEd.com Gr K - 12

2. **Scoring High on the Iowa Test and Scoring High on the Stanford 10 Test** – Available through Triangle Education Assessments and Piedmont Education Services. Gr 1 – 8.

3. **Test for Success** – Practice tests for all types of standardized tests. Teacher lesson plans and student practice tests. Available through www.TriangleEd.com Gr K - 8.

4. Spectrum Test Prep Books – achievement test prep. Available through local bookstores. Gr K - 8

5. Better Test Scores - BJU Gr 3 - 8.

6. CogAT/OLSAT Practice Test – Gr 2 -12. Available through www.TriangleEd.com or www.BJUpress.com

Other tests and honor programs:

1. SAT, AP, CLEP www.collegeboard.org . You can register online for both the SAT™ and AP tests

2. ACT www.act.org

3. PSAT, NMSQT www.nationalmerit.org. Details on how home schoolers are included in the administration of the above tests are at:

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/reg/homeschool.html

B. Cognitive and IQ Tests

Cognitive

1. The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT®) (Iowa) This cognitive test helps parents discover their children's learning style or possible giftedness. It includes an interactive website that parents can use to learn how to best teach to their child's processing strengths. www.TriangleEd.com or www.bjupress.com.

2. Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT®) available through www.TriangleEd.com or www.BJUpress.com. This cognitive test helps parents discover their children's learning style or possible giftedness.

IQ: Intelligence Quotient

1. WJIII Cognitive - 20 tests but only 7 are needed for IQ and takes about 45 minutes. Must be performed under licensed professional.

2. WISC or Wechsler: Given by a licensed professional as part of psychoeducational testing

C. Career/Personality/Spiritual Gifts Assessments

1. Interest Explorer™: available through Triangle Education Assessments www.HomeSchoolerTests.com. Must be done in conjunction with the Iowa test.

2. Career Direct®: Finding your niche/uncovering the vocation to which you were called. Available through www.TriangleEd.com or www.careerdirectonline.org. Best for high school aged students.

3. The Call™: Vocational and Life Purpose Guide

www.thecallonline.com/index.php

4. Free personality test: www.careerdirectonline.org/. Crown Ministries/Larry Burkett Ministries.

5. Spiritual Gifts Inventory: www.elca.org/evangelism/assessments/spiritgifts.html or www.buildingchurch.net/g2s-i.htm

6. Learning Style: CogAT see C1 above. www.rrcconline.com/~psych/LSInventory.html (free),

www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/ilsweb.html (free), www.learning-stylesonline.com/ (free).

7. Multiple Intelligences: www.berghuis.co.nz/abiator/lsi/lsiframe.html (free)

D. Learning Differences and Psycho-Educational Battery - This is a full battery of tests to diagnose learning differences. It must be administered by an educational psychologist. Get referrals from your pediatrician. Often college Psychology programs offer help in this area at a discount of private clinicians. Sometimes some insurance will help with the costs. Local public school systems provide some of this testing for free but you must contact them and submit a letter of request.

E. Audiology testing for Central Auditory Processing Disorder - This test is done by an audiologist to determine if academic or language processing problems are caused by a Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD or ADP). This is NOT the same as a traditional hearing test. CAPD exists when the brain and ears do not fully co-operate. Information, including symptom checklists and more information can be found at: http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/medical/ears/central_auditory.html and <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/voice/auditory.htm> . Pediatricians and Ear, Nose and Throat physicians can provide referrals to an educational audiologist.

F. Talent/Honors Programs

1. Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) - www.tip.duke.edu Eligible students must have scored at the 95th percentile or above on a grade level standardized achievement, aptitude, or mental ability test or approved state criterion referenced test. Scores from either of the two most recent test administrations are acceptable; mental ability tests must be no more than two years old; and students need only qualify on one acceptable composite or sub test area. (4th/5th graders) They also offer 7th grade program.

2. Davidson Institute: <http://www.ditd.org/> Score requirements:

http://www.davidsonacademy.unr.edu/Articles.aspx?ArticleID=144&NavID=1_33

3. National Honor Society

Must meet at least **one** of the following requirements as established by E.S.A.:

ACT composite score of 26 or higher.

PSAT score of 120 or higher (verbal/math) or 180 if total PSAT.

SAT score of 1800 or higher (reading, writing and math combined scores).

National Percentile Rank of 90% NPR or above on the composite/complete battery (core cannot be used) on the Iowa, Stanford, CAT, MAT or other approved nationally normed standardization achievement test (like the Woodcock-Johnson III) done in a group setting. Check with your local chapter for which tests they accept.

© 2011 Debbie Thompson and Diane E. Allen (all rights reserved)

This information may be copied and distributed free of charge to individuals and homeschool groups in North Carolina so long as it is copied in its entirety, including credits.