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# The best way to get into SUMMA

“I want to know the best way to get into Summa.” ~many parents  
There are several options and it is a family choice on what you decide.

## **Some basic rules to keep in mind:**

1. ITBS Reading/Math testing recommendation is determined by teachers through the Kingore observation inventory. Parents are welcome to have input via the parent information form, which is helpful for teachers to know of the parent interest. A parent input form does not mean your child will be tested automatically.
2. A student qualifies for Summa with 4th or 5th grade scores on the ITBS or COGAT only. SBAC Scores are not considered.
3. Tests can only be given every two years. Students may not take tests every year to see if they qualify for Summa and/or TAG.
4. COGAT will be given in the fall of each year (in Nov) to ALL 3rd and 5th graders.
5. At the school level, the school is responsible for identifying students as TAG, once they are in TAG in a certain area, the school does not test them again in that area. The district will test again in the fall of 5th grade for TAG students to qualify for Summa.



# The best way to get into SUMMA (cont')

## Some scenarios:

### 1. Your child is recommended for TAG testing in grades K-3.

- a. If they qualify for TAG, then they will no longer be tested in that area at the *school* level. For example, if they are TAG identified in reading, they will not take a reading test again at their school even if they need it for Summa qualification. However, they will be identified as TAG which will automatically qualify them to take the tests for Summa in 5th grade through the *district*.
- b. You decide not to test, decline the testing and wait until 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade. In this scenario, please remember there is ***no guarantee*** the upper grades will recommend the student for testing. It is ***highly recommended*** you fill out ***a parent information form*** in the fall to express your interest, although this does not guarantee they will be tested.
- c. If your child is performing at a higher level in class, your child's needs will be met at school whether they have a TAG identification or not. Students who are identified as TAG are then labeled as such and both the parents and teachers make a plan to make sure the needs are met.

### 2. Take the ITBS Reading/Math tests in 4th grade.

- a. If the child does not pass the tests at a 97% or above, there will be NO further opportunity for Summa testing, students will not be able to take the test again in 5th grade.
- b. The child passes the tests at a 97% or above, but does not meet the criteria of 97% and 99% on two different tests. Since they are now qualified as TAG, they will be invited to test for Summa in the fall of 5th grade.
- c. Passes the test with a 97% and 99% on two tests, automatically qualifies for Summa.

### 3. CogAt test for ALL 3rd Grade and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

- a. The CogAt test score in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is not used for Summa qualification.
- b. The child got 99% in 5<sup>th</sup> grade CogAt test automatically qualifies for Summa. The CogAt 97% can be combined with a 99% from either ITBS Math or Reading to qualify for SUMMA.



## An Overview of the ITBS Tests

The tests are standardized achievement tests. This means that they measure attained knowledge or skills, not potential for achievement. The tests are standardized because all students who take them receive the same test instructions, the same test questions, and the same amount of time to complete them. The tests cover many of the fundamental skills are curricular areas that children learn in school: math, reading, vocabulary, writing, work-study skills, social studies and science. The test questions, written in a multiple-choice format, reflect a sample of the material presented in textbooks that are widely used across the country. In answering the test questions within the general content areas, students will need to be able to evaluate and apply information, make inferences, and use many critical thinking skills. Standardized tests perform several functions. They describe a student's proficiency within a subject area. They help parents and teachers identify students' areas of relative strength and weakness among the subjects they study. They are a means through which a student's progress can be monitored from year to year. They give educators and parents information from which they can plan instruction. Finally, because they are norm-referenced tests (see explanation below), educators use them to compare the achievement of their students with others across the nation who have taken the same tests. In many schools, scores are a significant factor in determining educational decisions such as student promotion and retention, mandatory summer school attendance, class placement, qualification in programs for high achieving students, principal evaluations, and school accreditation and reorganization. It is not surprising that standardized tests have become known as "high-stakes" tests.

### **What do my child's scores mean?**

Norm-referenced tests provide information about how an individual student's performance compares with the scores of a reference or "norm group" of students at the same grade level. The norm group is a large representative sample of all U.S. students (of different ages; sexes; races and ethnicities; in urban, suburban, rural, public and private school settings, etc.) who take the test. After a school administers the test, each student's scores are compared to those of the national norm group. The result is reported as a national percentile ranking (NPR). This national percentile ranking shows a student's standing within the groups of students in the same grade who were tested at the same time of year during the national standardization. A student's national percentile rank tells the percent of students in the



norm group that got lower scores on a test than the student did. For example, a student achieving a 78 NPR in reading comprehension scored higher than 78% of the students in the norm group who took that test. This also means that 22 % of the norm group scored higher on the reading comprehension section of the test. Percentile ranks range from 1 to 99, with the 50th percentile corresponding to the middle ranking or national median.

## What subjects are tested?

The tests are different for every grade level. Most students in grade 4 take Level 10. The tests are intended to cover essential academic skills and content that is most often taught at each grade level. To qualify SUMMA, students are required to take reading/math, two of tests.

The reading/math in the Level 10 for 4<sup>th</sup> grade includes the following tests:

**Reading Comprehension** - 41 questions divided among 2 sessions of 25 and 30 minutes  
**Mathematics**

Concepts and Estimation - 36 questions presented in 2 sessions totaling 30 minutes

Problem Solving and Data Interpretation - 24 questions to be answered in 30 minutes

Computation - 27 questions to be answered in 15 minutes

The reading/math in the Level 11 for 5<sup>th</sup> grade includes the following tests:

**Reading Comprehension**- 43 questions divided among 2 sessions of 25 & 30 minutes  
**Mathematics**

Concepts and Estimation- 40 questions presented in 2 sessions totaling 30 minutes

Problem Solving and Data Interpretation- 26 questions to be answered in 30 minutes

Computation- 29 questions to be answered in 15 minutes



## What is the CogAT Test?

The Cognitive Abilities Test™, or CogAT® Test, is a cognitive test used by many school districts to qualify children for their gifted and talented programs, and getting a great score on it can have tremendous ramifications for your child's future. The test assesses reasoning and problem solving abilities in three key areas: 1) verbal, 2) math, and 3) non-verbal.

The CogAT® Test is not an achievement test (covering what is learned in school) and not a true intelligence test. It is a cognitive test that assesses your child's thinking and reasoning abilities in areas of language, math and spatial relations. The abilities assessed on the CogAT® Test are not specifically taught in school. For that reason, practicing the types of questions that children will see when they take the CogAT® Test is very helpful in building the underlying skills, experience, and confidence they will need to do well.

**9 Subtests:** There are the 9 subtests in the CogAT® Test Form 7. Questions per subtest depend on the level of the test your child takes:

### Verbal Battery

- Subtest 1: Verbal Classification
- Subtest 2: Sentence Completion
- Subtest 3: **Verbal Analogies**

### Quantitative Battery

- Subtest 4: Number Analogies
- Subtest 5: Number Series
- Subtest 6: **Number Puzzles**

### Nonverbal Battery

- Subtest 7: Figure Classification
- Subtest 8: **Figure Matrices (Analogies)**
- Subtest 9: Paper Folding (Hole Punch Questions)

Level 5/6 – 14 questions on all subtests except Number Puzzles and Paper Folding (which have 10 questions)

Level 7 – 16 questions on all subtests except Number Puzzles and Paper Folding (which have 12 questions)

Level 8 – 18 questions on all subtests except Number Puzzles and Paper Folding (which have 14 questions)

Level 9 – has between 16 and 22 questions on each subtest.

Level 10 and above – has between 16 and 22 questions on each section.

**Note: Level 11 is for 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and Level 12 is for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, in CogAt Form 7**



## Sunshine SUMMA Prep Program

This program is for students from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> grade to prepare the SUMMA tests. The tests in K-3 grade can be used to qualify the Elementary TAG program; The tests in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade can be used to qualify the Middle School SUMMA program. Two tests are offered in BSD: CogAt and ITBS reading/math. CogAt is intelligent based and ITBS is knowledge based.

- Sunshine SUMMA Prep Program is designed along with the test date.
- Each term has different target and contents.
- Free test evaluation & recommendation are available via this link:

[https://www.sunshineeliteeducation.com/assessment\\_test\\_list.php](https://www.sunshineeliteeducation.com/assessment_test_list.php)

### Program Schedules

Subjects	Term	Length	Target	Level
Test Evaluation	Any time online	Varies	To report student's test readiness status and recommend how to prepare the tests.	K-7 <sup>th</sup>
IOWA Reading/Math Fundamental Training	Spring Jan-Jun	20 1.5-hour classes	Reading/Math fundamental reviews; To advance students by drilling down the required subject skills and take some practice tests.	3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup>
CogAt Verbal/Figure/Quantitative Fundamental Training	Spring Jan-Jun	20 1.5-hour classes	Introduce all questions types for 9 different CogAt sections; Has more focus on fundamental Verbal section drills	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup>
ITBS Reading/Math	Summer Camp	Two Week half-day Camps	Introduce all question types for ITBS reading/math, subject skill drills & practice tests	K -5 <sup>th</sup>
CogAt	Summer Camp	Two Week half-day Camps	Introduce all questions types for 9 different sections in CogAt tests with section practice and skill drills	K-5 <sup>th</sup>
Test Evaluation	Any time online	Varies	To report student's test readiness status and recommend how to prepare the tests.	K-7 <sup>th</sup>
ITBS Reading/Math Target test in November	Fall Sep-Oct	8 1.5-hour classes	Intensive test preparation subject skill drills, practice tests & test strategies	4 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup>
CogAt Target test in November	Fall Sep-Oct	8 1.5-hour classes	Intensive test preparation with subject skill drills, practice tests & test strategies	3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup>

For more program details and registration, please go to [www.SunshineEliteEducation.com](http://www.SunshineEliteEducation.com)

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