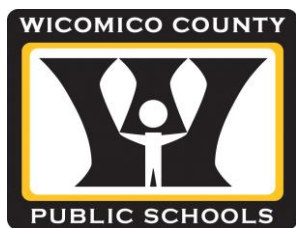


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A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

February 24, 2021

Wicomico County Public Schools will soon begin gathering information about Grade 2 students to help match students to appropriate instructional placement in Grade 3, and for High Performing Learner and Gifted and Talented (GT or TAD – *Thinking and Doing*) identification. During the week of March 22nd – March 26th, all Grade 2 students in Wicomico County Public Schools will be assessed using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAt). The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is a nationally standardized, norm-referenced test. The CogAT measures reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different cognitive areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal.

- The verbal section measures a child's ability to remember and transform sequences of English words, to understand them and to make inferences and judgments about them.
- The quantitative section measures a child's understanding of basic quantitative concepts and relationships.
- The non-verbal section measures reasoning using pictures and geometric shapes. This section reduces the impact of language on the student's score.
- The composite score is a total score for all three batteries.

Each subtest takes approximately 30-45 minutes to complete. Each subtest gives information that can be used to identify a student's strengths and instructional needs. The results will be used primarily to help students, teachers, and parents/ guardians understand educational needs, to help improve student learning, and to plan for future instruction. Over the next few months we will continue gathering information about each student from a variety of sources. These local assessments will be shared at the school level after each data collection.

Students currently participating in hybrid instruction will be assessed while on campus. We are requesting that our students participating in virtual learning fill out a Google form using the link below to indicate if they would like to come in to school on Wednesday, March 24th to participate in this assessment opportunity. The link for to register for this opportunity will remain open Friday, March 5th.

<https://forms.gle/E6XV4GgabZVfoGj79>

If you have any additional questions regarding this assessment administration, please contact your school principal or the Office of Assessment and Accountability (410-677-4477).

Sincerely,

Karen Hitch

Karen Hitch
Supervisor of Assessment and Accountability
kparsons@wcboe.org

