

Gifted Screening/Testing Policy and Instruments Used

as of 2/21/07

The Gifted Child: A Definition

According to the laws of the State of New Mexico, a gifted child is one who demonstrates evidence of giftedness in intelligence and in one other area. More specifically, students are evaluated in the areas of intellectual ability, subject matter aptitude/achievement, creativity/divergent thinking, and problem solving/critical thinking. A student who meets the criteria established for intellectual ability and also meets criteria in one or more of the other areas qualifies for services in gifted education, with the service level determined in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting specific for that child.

1. **Referral** may come from any source, but it is most likely to come from the child's teacher or parent.
2. **Screening** includes the following:
 - * Primary instrument for cognitive screening: KBIT-2, a recommended, widely used cognitive (intelligence) test that screens for giftedness
 - * Secondary instrument: Stanford 9 achievement test (given each spring at CVCS)

The student **must** pass the KBIT-2 to move on for a full evaluation by a certified diagnostician.

3. **Evaluation by Diagnostician** includes the following tests:
 - * Wechsler-IV or -III (WISC-IV or -III) intelligence test
 - * Woodcock-Johnson achievement test
 - * SOI (Structure of Intellect) test provides a profile of several different learning abilities
4. **Criteria required** for the gifted program include the following:
 - * WISC-IV verbal or performance score(s) of 130¹ or above
and
 - * Achievement test scores of 95% or above in math or English or other core subject, or
 - * Evidence of very superior creativity (including the performing arts) or divergent thinking, and/or
 - * Evidence of problem solving/critical thinking as shown on the SOI tests

¹ Depending on factors in the particular child's background, some variability is allowed here under very specific circumstances; the figure 130 is the required score under most circumstances.