



Center for Talent Development

NUMATS 2016

Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search

Accurate Assessment and Targeted Resources
for High-Achieving Students

Family Handbook 2016

www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats



Center for Talent Development
Northwestern University™
School of Education & Social Policy



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY®

What is NUMATS?

You've discovered that your child is academically advanced. What now? NUMATS provides valuable tools to help guide the way.

NUMATS is a research-validated program that utilizes above-grade-level testing to help you understand the educational needs of your child. We also help you interpret test results, advocate for an appropriate learning environment, and access quality resources and programs. NUMATS provides:

- Talent identification using above-grade-level testing through EXPLORE®, ACT®, or SAT®
- Test preparation materials
- Statistics comparing your child's scores with those of other gifted students at each grade level
- Tailored academic planning
- Instructional resources for use at home and in the classroom
- Onsite and online learning opportunities
- Opportunities to connect online with families of gifted students throughout the Midwest and beyond
- Current articles on parenting gifted students
- Recognition of your child's achievement

Test Criteria to Determine NUMATS Eligibility

Nationally Normed Tests*

STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN GRADE	VERBAL/READING, MATH, OR COMPOSITE (Categories or Subcategories)	MAY TAKE
3	≥ 92nd percentile	EXPLORE
4-5	≥ 90th percentile	EXPLORE
6	= 90th-94th percentile	EXPLORE
	≥ 95th percentile	ACT and/or SAT
7-9	≥ 90th percentile	ACT and/or SAT

*Examples include CogAT, ITBS, MAP, Terra Nova, etc.

State Achievement Tests

State Grades 3-8	2013-14 TEST / LEVEL ACHIEVED	2014-15 TEST / LEVEL ACHIEVED
Illinois	ISAT / Exceeds	PARCC / Distinguished
Indiana		ISTEP+ / Pass+
North Dakota	NDSA / Advanced	SBAC / 4
Ohio	OAA / Advanced	PARCC / Distinguished
South Dakota	Dakota STEP / Advancing	SBAC / 4

	MICHIGAN*	MINNESOTA	WISCONSIN	
Grade when taken	2013-14 MEAP Score	2014-15 MCA Percentile	2013-14 WKCE Percentile	2014-15 Badger Level
3	V: ≥ 364 M: ≥ 367	≥ 92nd	≥ 92nd	Advanced
4	V: ≥ 470 M: ≥ 467	≥ 90th	≥ 90th	Advanced
5	V: ≥ 575 M: ≥ 569	≥ 90th	≥ 90th	Advanced
6	V: ≥ 666 M: ≥ 671	≥ 90th	≥ 90th	Advanced
7	V: ≥ 779 M: ≥ 761	≥ 90th	≥ 90th	Advanced
8	V: ≥ 887 M: ≥ 859	≥ 90th	≥ 90th	Advanced

*V: verbal/reading score; M: math score; 2014-15 M-STEP criteria will be available on our website in the fall.

Why above-grade-level testing through NUMATS?

Gifted children often hit the ceiling on grade-level achievement tests. Your child may earn top scores, but these tests are not able to assess the full extent of ability or furnish an accurate measure of academic growth. Also they do not provide a comparison with the scores achieved by other gifted students at the same grade level. Moreover IQ tests are not tied to subject-specific content, so teachers cannot use results to design learning experiences that develop your child's talent.

A better tool is needed to assess accurately your child's knowledge, skills, and understanding and to gauge how your child's scores compare with those of other academically talented students. Your gifted child requires a more challenging test, one designed for higher grade levels that includes advanced content.

NUMATS allows eligible students to take the internationally recognized EXPLORE, ACT, and SAT before the grade levels at which they are normally administered. For more information about these tests and their differences, and to determine which tests are appropriate for first-time and repeat test takers, go to our website at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats. Under Details, click on TESTS: EXPLORE, ACT, SAT and scroll down to the section entitled, "Which test(s) should my student(s) take?"

Who's eligible for NUMATS?

Students in grades 3 through 9 who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Participated previously in NUMATS or another talent search program
- Qualify for their school's gifted program
- Receive a teacher or parent recommendation because they demonstrate advanced aptitude in verbal or mathematical reasoning, consistently demonstrate a high level of performance on demanding coursework, or often request more challenging academic experiences
- Meet grade-level assessment criteria in either verbal/reading or math on a nationally normed or state achievement test

(See charts to the left—test scores from previous years may be used.)

How can families participate in NUMATS?

1. **Confirm that your child is eligible for the program.**
2. **Complete ONLINE registration at my.ctd.northwestern.edu.** Since more in-depth materials for families are available online, only complete the paper registration form if Internet access is not available. A test center code lookup is available at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats-test-centers.
3. **Activate your MyCTD Toolbox.** When your child's registration is finalized, you will gain access to secured, personalized, online communities through MyCTD Toolbox at my.ctd.northwestern.edu. You will find pre- and post-test resources to help you and your child take full advantage of the many benefits NUMATS offers.
 - Test preparation materials
 - Test scores and NUMATS comparison percentiles
 - Tailored academic recommendations
 - NUMATS Statistical Summary
 - Center for Talent Development's (CTD) Educational Program Guide
 - Resources for parents and gifted students
4. **Help your child prepare** for the test using NUMATS online test prep materials.



5. On test day your child must bring:

- **test center admission ticket** sent to you by the testing agency. If you have not received the ticket by one week before the test date, call:
 - **EXPLORE** 319/337-1369
 - **ACT** 319/337-1270
 - **SAT** 866/756-7346
- **student identification (ACT and SAT only):**
 - **ACT (all grades)** — ACT Talent Search Student Identification Letter (completed by parent and student)
 - **SAT (grades 6–8)** — SAT Student Identification Form (completed by parent and student)
 - **SAT (grade 9)** — Current (valid) official photo ID

Forms and more detailed instructions are available in the online MyCTD Toolbox. Click on the NUMATS Info tab and scroll down to Section 3—Day of the Test.

6. **In partnership with your child's teacher,** use test scores, NUMATS percentiles, interpretive materials, and resources to design an effective academic experience.

SPECIAL NOTES

NUMATS registration and payment is a simple process that includes test registration and access to a multitude of resources. Refunds are not provided.

If you identify your child's school, the school will receive your child's scores with follow-up interpretive information and a recognition certificate that can be presented at an honors assembly.

Consider having your child take each test applicable to his or her current grade level. Test dates are available throughout the school year. Scores from all dates are considered for the NUMATS Award Ceremony but may not be considered by other organizations depending on the date of the organization's ceremony.

What else do you need to consider?

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available for one test per school year to students who qualify for a federally subsidized program such as free or reduced-price lunch. An eligibility letter stating your child qualifies, written on school letterhead and signed by a school official, is required to complete registration. It should be submitted to NUMATS via fax, email, or U.S. mail such that it is received by the registration deadline for the chosen test date. **If unable to provide this letter, contact NUMATS for other options.**

Qualified students will receive a **NUMATS fee waiver** and/or a **test fee waiver** on a limited, first-come, first-served basis. Students in grade 7 may receive a Jack Kent Cooke (JKC) Fee Waiver in which JKC pays the test fee. Students in all grades may receive a test fee waiver in which either NUMATS or a testing agency pays the test fee.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations may be made for students with a disability that requires special testing tools or an exception to standard testing procedures. Testing agencies determine allowable accommodations.

Request special accommodations when completing NUMATS registration and submit both NUMATS and test fees; deadlines are about eight weeks prior to the scheduled test dates. NUMATS will mail you special accommodations forms, which you must complete and mail directly to the testing agency. ACT and EXPLORE forms are also available for download from the NUMATS Info page of your online MyCTD Toolbox.

ACT Writing

Students may add an optional writing section to the test if their registrations are completed by a regular registration deadline. If you wish to add writing, you should call ACT at 319/337-1270 no earlier than two weeks after completing your NUMATS registration, but no later than ACT's late registration deadline for the test date you have chosen. ACT will charge you an additional \$17 for this section, and it will add about 30 minutes to the test time. NUMATS does not provide comparison percentiles for ACT Writing.



SAT Grade 9

Students in grade 9 registering for SAT must do so in a two-step process. After completing the NUMATS portion of your registration, you will receive an e-mail directing you to SAT's website to register for the test itself. When registering with SAT, you should choose the "high school not listed" option if you do not want scores sent to a school. You also should enter "Northwestern Universitys Midwest Acdmc Talent Srch" as an organization to which you want an additional score report sent. This will ensure that we receive your child's scores and that you receive customized percentiles and an academic plan in your online MyCTD Toolbox account.

Non-Saturday Testing

Alternate test dates are available to students whose religious observance prohibits Saturday testing. A letter from clergy requesting this option must be sent to NUMATS such that it is received by the registration deadline for the chosen test date. Dates and available test centers can be found at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats-test-centers.

Imagine: Big Ideas for Bright Minds

Imagine is an excellent magazine for gifted students in grades 7 through 12 published by The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth. A five-issue subscription may be ordered in the registration process. Learn more at www.cty.jhu.edu/imagine/numats.

FAQ about Above-Grade-Level Testing

Why should my child take EXPLORE, ACT, or SAT through NUMATS?

- Receive detailed information about your child's true academic abilities.
- Guide your child's academic planning.
- Track your child's academic growth.
- Provide a gateway to opportunities.
- Give your child practice with high-stakes testing.
- Build your child's confidence.
- Help your child feel good about being gifted.
- Advocate for your child.
- Become part of an online community of gifted students and their parents.

Will my child be overwhelmed?

Your child probably breezes through grade-level achievement tests. An above-grade-level test may be the most difficult test your child has ever taken. He or she won't know all the answers. That's okay. The tests are designed to assess knowledge and skills generally learned at higher grade levels. They're supposed to be harder, and your child is not expected to know everything on them. Discuss this with your child in advance, so he or she can take the test with realistic expectations and simply do his or her best.

How can my child prepare for the test?

Once you've registered your child, visit the online MyCTD Toolbox to access practice guides and test-taking tips. Students do not need to take a commercial test preparation course.

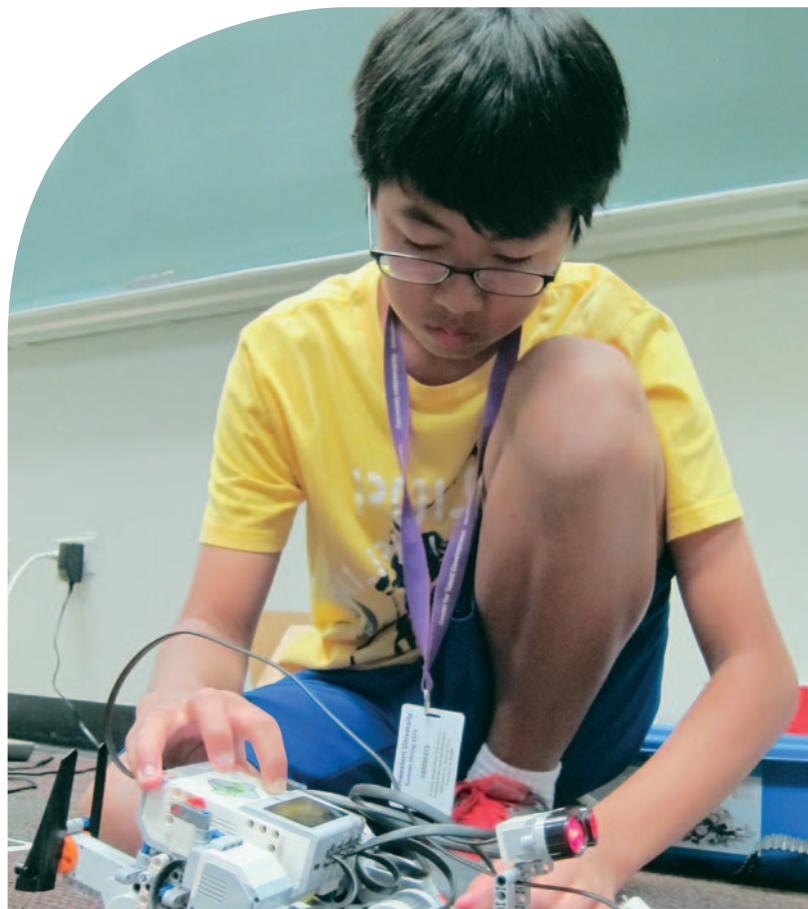
Will my child be nervous about the testing environment?

At many test centers, the testing room serves NUMATS participants along with older students. While some younger students may be concerned about testing with high schoolers, most do just fine. Test administrators ensure a quiet, respectful test environment where all students can do their best work.

What happens to my child's scores?

You can access your child's scores, along with interpretive materials, in the online MyCTD Toolbox several weeks after testing. Your child's school will also have access to scores if you identify the school when registering. Together, you and your child's teacher can discuss the scores, what they mean, and which resources and programs would be best suited to help your child reach full potential.

You will receive an official score report from the testing agency. No scores are ever shared with a college or university unless you specifically direct the testing agency to do so.



Center for Talent Development has been accredited as a nonpublic supplementary school by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) since April 1, 1994. NCA CASI is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and has more than 100 years of experience in improving educational quality.

What is your family's NUMATS timeline?

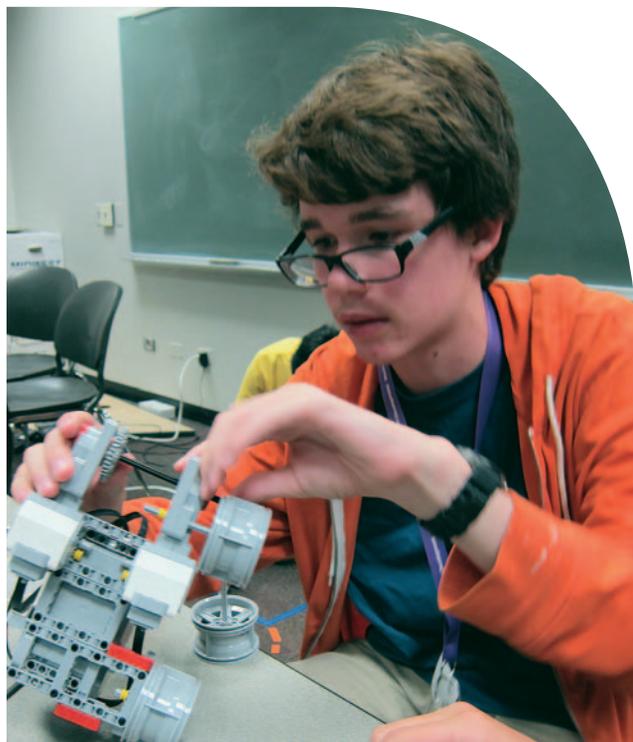
Your child's test date is: _____

Early September

- Online registration is available and preferred.
- Use paper registration form only if Internet access is not available.

After registration is finalized by NUMATS

- Access the online MyCTD Toolbox at my.ctd.northwestern.edu. Click on the NUMATS Info tab and scroll down to Section 2—Prepare for the Test. Encourage your child to make use of the test prep materials that are provided, especially *The 2016 Student Guide: Participating in NUMATS*.
- Also be sure that you have or obtain a required form of student identification. Forms and detailed instructions are available in the online MyCTD Toolbox. Click on the NUMATS Info tab and scroll down to Section 3—Day of the Test.



One week before test date

- If your child has not received a test center admission ticket, call the testing agency:

EXPLORE	319/337-1369
ACT	319/337-1270
SAT	866/756-7346

Test date

- The test center admission ticket tells you when and where to go and what to bring on test day. Make certain your child brings this admission ticket and, if taking ACT or SAT, the student identification form or photo ID that is required.

If your child misses his/her test date

- Call the testing agency to reschedule. You do not need to reregister, but the testing agencies do charge a fee to reschedule.

Several weeks after test date

- Check the online MyCTD Toolbox for your child's scores and interpretive information; students and schools have online access to follow-up materials as soon as scores are entered into our database.

About five weeks after test date

- You will receive an official testing agency score report.

March

- Eligible students receive information about CTD's summer and online programs.
- Visit the online MyCTD Toolbox for an updated version of CTD's Educational Program Guide.

April–June

- NUMATS recognition certificates are mailed.

May–October

- State award ceremonies are held.

September

- NUMATS Award Ceremony is held.



NUMATS 2015-2016 Testing Information

TEST	REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION PERIOD ¹	TEST DATES	REGULAR FEES ²			
				NUMATS	Test	Total	
EXPLORE	October 7, 2015	October 8-13, 2015	November 7, 2015	\$39	\$35	\$74	
	December 16, 2015	December 17-29, 2015	January 23, 2016				
	January 13, 2016	January 14-19, 2016	February 20, 2016				
ACT ³	August 5, 2015	August 6-18, 2015	September 12, 2015	\$39	\$39.50	\$78.50	
	September 16, 2015	September 17-29, 2015	October 24, 2015				
	November 4, 2015	November 5-17, 2015	December 12, 2015				
	January 6, 2016	January 7-12, 2016	February 6, 2016				
	March 2, 2016	March 3-15, 2016	April 9, 2016				
	May 4, 2016	May 5-17, 2016	June 11, 2016				
SAT ⁴ (current)	August 31, 2015	Not Applicable	October 3, 2015	\$39	\$54.50	\$93.50	
	October 6, 2015		November 7, 2015				
	November 2, 2015		December 5, 2015				
	January 4, 2016 ⁶		January 23, 2016				
SAT ⁵ (redesigned)	February 2, 2016	Not Applicable	March 5, 2016	\$39	Without Essay \$43	With Essay \$54.50	\$82 (without essay) or \$93.50 (with essay)
	April 5, 2016		May 7, 2016				
	May 2, 2016		June 4, 2016				

¹Late fees are assessed during late registration periods: EXPLORE \$14 and ACT \$25.

²Refunds are not provided for regular fees or late fees.

³Writing may be added to the ACT by contacting the testing agency if the registration is completed by the regular deadline; cost is \$17.

⁴Writing is included in the current SAT.

⁵Essay is optional in the redesigned SAT; also NUMATS percentiles for all subtests will not become available until fall 2016.

⁶Grade 9 students must register with SAT for the test itself by December 28, 2015 in order to avoid a late fee for the January 23, 2016 test date.

- Test centers are located in your area.
- Financial aid, non-Saturday testing, and special accommodations are available for eligible students.



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