



Dear Parents,

On September 1, 2021, your child will take the *Cognitive Abilities Test*, and from September 9 to September 14, 2021 your child will take the *Iowa Assessments*™. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the tests so that—with your support and encouragement—your child will do his or her best on the tests.

About the *Iowa Assessments* and *Cognitive Abilities Test*

The *Iowa Assessments* and *Cognitive Abilities Test* help determine how students are performing compared to their peers across the nation. The *Cognitive Abilities Test* measures students' learned reasoning abilities in three areas that closely relate to success in school; verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and nonverbal reasoning. The *Iowa Assessments* measure achievement in several important content areas including Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

The tests help teachers identify a student's strengths and areas that may need additional emphasis. The *Iowa Assessments* also measure student growth and progress in the content areas assessed from year to year and may provide information about college readiness for older students. The assessments produce information that enables sound decision making and provides a focus for teachers to evaluate instruction.

Each test includes sample questions to help students become familiar with the content and format of the tests. Samples help students understand what to do—how to mark answers and move from question to question.

For most tests, students read the questions and mark their answers by filling in a circle for each question. All test questions are multiple choice, and the tests last about 10 to 35 minutes.

How your child can prepare for test taking—and what you can do to help

A student who is well rested and well fed and has a positive attitude about testing is best prepared for testing. You can help your child do his or her best by considering these tips:

- Make sure that your child is in school and on time on test days.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.
- Remind your child that these tests are only **one** measure of what he or she has learned. Emphasize that you have confidence in his or her ability to do the best job possible.
- Remind your child to listen to the directions and read each question carefully during testing. Encourage your child to ask the teacher for help if he or she does not understand the directions.

Score reporting and how we use test results

The school will receive test scores in about 6-8 weeks. These scores will indicate how your child performed on the tests compared with students across the nation in the same grade.

Thank you very much for encouraging and supporting your child during testing. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Dr. Nicole Sheppard-Floyd (nicole.sheppard-floyd@cobbk12.org)**.

Sincerely,
Dr. Nicole Sheppard-Floyd
Test Coordinator