Grade 2 Student Testing Information for Channels of Challenge

Revised 9/26/24

Channels of Challenge (C of C) is a replacement program in reading and math for students who require greater challenge at an accelerated pace. Students who are enrolled in C of C leave their general education classroom when reading or math occurs, and go to their C of C teacher's classroom. The Channels of Challenge Reading program uses the same workshop model as the homeroom classes. The curricular instruction is matched to students' abilities, needs, and interests by adapting the pace, depth and complexity of study. The Channels of Challenge Math program is one of two math acceleration programs in District 64. Channels of Challenge students work two years beyond the homeroom math class, and complete Integrated High School Math 2 in eighth grade. Accelerated Math is a program that formally begins in middle school (sixth grade), but students are prepared for Accelerated Math through guided math groups, flexibly grouped math classes, and flexibly grouped instruction during the intervention block in elementary homeroom classes. Students in Accelerated Math complete Integrated High School Math 1 in eighth grade.

Once a student enters Channels of Challenge, they do NOT need to test for the program again. Progress is continually monitored and students who are able to learn well at the rigor and pace of the C of C program remain in the program through eighth grade. Based on testing, students may be eligible for Channels of Challenge Math, Reading, or both subject areas. Students who do not qualify for third grade Channels of Challenge will have other opportunities to join the program. The spring eligibility process for 3rd-7th grade can be found by visiting this link.

District 64 uses multiple measures in the eligibility process to ensure students have an opportunity to demonstrate that they can succeed in a C of C class. The three areas considered for program placement include students' achievement levels, reasoning abilities, and learning behaviors. District 64 uses multiple universal screenings of second graders for program placement. The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is taken by all District 64 second grade students in late January/ early February, and NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), a computer-adaptive test that allows for above grade level assessment, are the two universal screeners taken by all District 64 second graders. Winter and spring MAP testing scores are used as the achievement portion of the eligibility process.

The testing process is separate for each subject area and includes:

Screening for ALL Second Grade Students

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress): During regular school years, all second grade students participate in NWEA MAP math and reading achievement tests in fall, winter, and spring. **Winter and spring** MAP scores are used for program eligibility.

CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test): In late January/early February, all second grade students participate in Cognitive Abilities Testing. This nationally normed test measures a student's learned reasoning ability. A student's **standard age score (SAS)** on this assessment is one method for determining whether students are eligible for further assessments in the Channels of Challenge identification process.

Students obtaining one or more of the following scores will move on in the eligibility process for the subject(s) of their qualifying score(s). *Note that these scores do NOT guarantee placement in the program. They identify students for the evaluation process.*

MATH

- Quantitative CogAT SAS of 120 or higher
- Winter or spring MAP Math RIT score at/above the 95th national percentile.

READING

- Verbal CogAT SAS of 120 or higher
- Winter or spring MAP Reading RIT score at/above the 95th national percentile.

MAP Student Report *(Example)*

Term/ Year	Grade	RIT (+/- Std Err)	RIT Growth	Growth Projection	Percentile Range
SP19	2	224-**227**-230	24	13	98-**99**-99
WI19	2	205-**208**-211			92-**95**-97
FA18	2	200-**203**-206			97-**98**-99

Screening scores are the middle values (in bold). For this sample student, the RIT score is 208 winter and 227 spring. This example's national percentile would be 95% winter and 99% spring.

***The RIT score considered is the **bold** middle value found on a student's MAP report.*

ADDITIONAL STEPS
WISC-V Assessments, Renzulli Scales, Z-Scores

WISC-V Test: The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fifth Edition (WISC-V) allows the student another opportunity to demonstrate ability. Students can qualify to take the WISC-V if:

- their subject area CogAT score is below 120 **AND** they have a winter or spring MAP score at or above the 95th percentile nationally.
- their subject area CogAT score is at or above 120 **AND** they have a winter or spring qualifying subject minimum MAP RIT at the 80th percentile nationally.

Students who fall into either of the categories below will not be contacted to take the WISC-V because further testing is not needed:

- students who score below the 80th percentile nationally on MAP in their qualifying CogAT subject. These students have not yet demonstrated a need for an accelerated program beyond District 64's core curriculum.
- students with a total of 10 or more points when their CogAT z-score times 3, MAP local z-score times 2, and Renzulli Scale z-scores are added together. The minimum qualifying score for entering the Channels of Challenge program is 10 points, so no further ability assessment is needed for these students.

Renzulli Rating Scale: Renzulli Scales (RS) are completed for all students who earn a SAS of 120 or above on CogAT or WISC-V. The subject based scales are used to rate behavioral characteristics of students in the specific subject area tested for. Each scale contains multiple items that are rated using a Likert-type scale.

Z-Score Calculation: A z-score is calculated based on the higher value of a student's winter or spring MAP score, the higher of the CogAT or WISC-V score, and Renzulli Scales. A separate z-score is calculated for each subject area. CogAT and WISC-V z-scores are calculated using national norms. MAP and Renzulli Scale z-scores are calculated using local norms. The total z-score points are calculated by adding the ability z-score times 3, MAP z-score times 2, and Renzulli Scales z-scores. A total z-score of 10 or more is required in each subject area for enrollment in Channels of Challenge Reading and in Channels of Challenge Math. Students may be eligible for Channels of Challenge Math, Reading, or both subject areas. Students who earn a z-score of 10 for a subject area have completed the eligibility process for this subject and will be enrolled in C of C beginning in the fall of 3rd grade.

Evaluation Report: By July 1, parents of second grade students having a MAP score at or above the 95th national percentile and/or a CogAT SAS score at or above 120 will receive an email notification of one of three decisions:

- a student qualifies for one or more Channels of Challenge subject area
- a student does not qualify for Channels of Challenge for the upcoming school year

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Testing

What is the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)?
The CogAT measures both general and specific cognitive abilities. The general reasoning abilities measured by the test show the cognitive processes and strategies that help a student learn new tasks or solve problems. This test measures developed abilities, not innate abilities. The CogAT tests that District 64 students take measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in two different areas: verbal (reading) and quantitative (math). The verbal section has 3 subtests which focus on reasoning skills, flexibility in thinking and fluency. The quantitative section has 3 subtests. These tests measure a child's understanding of basic quantitative concepts and relationships that are essential for learning mathematics.

When will parents/guardians be notified if the WISC-V test needs to be taken?
Not all students will move on to WISC-V testing. Students who need to be scheduled for the WISC-V test will be contacted by the Channels of Challenge Department via email. Most WISC-V and Naglieri assessments will be scheduled in May.

If you would like to learn more about how z-scores are calculated, follow this link.

If you would like to learn more about Channels of Challenge, the testing process and Channels of Challenge program, please follow this link to the parent site. Please check it regularly for updates.

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