NUMATS 2015
Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search
Accurate Assessment and Targeted Resources for High-Achieving Students
Family Handbook 2015
www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats
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
- Current articles on parenting gifted students
- Recognition of your child’s achievement

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.

### Nationally Normed Tests

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

### State Achievement Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade when taken</th>
<th>ILLINOIS SAT Level</th>
<th>INDIANA ISTEP+ Level</th>
<th>MICHIGAN MEAP Score</th>
<th>MINNESOTA MCA Percentile</th>
<th>NORTH DAKOTA NDSA Level</th>
<th>OHIO OAA Level</th>
<th>SOUTH DAKOTA Dakota STEP Level</th>
<th>WISCONSIN WKCE Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Exceeds Pass+</td>
<td>v: ≥ 364 m: ≥ 367</td>
<td>≥ 92nd</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advancing</td>
<td>≥ 92nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Exceeds Pass+</td>
<td>v: ≥ 470 m: ≥ 467</td>
<td>≥ 90th</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advancing</td>
<td>≥ 90th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Exceeds Pass+</td>
<td>v: ≥ 575 m: ≥ 569</td>
<td>≥ 90th</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advancing</td>
<td>≥ 90th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Exceeds Pass+</td>
<td>v: ≥ 666 m: ≥ 671</td>
<td>≥ 90th</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advancing</td>
<td>≥ 90th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Exceeds Pass+</td>
<td>v: ≥ 779 m: ≥ 761</td>
<td>≥ 90th</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advancing</td>
<td>≥ 90th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Exceeds Pass+</td>
<td>v: ≥ 887 m: ≥ 859</td>
<td>≥ 90th</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advancing</td>
<td>≥ 90th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

v: verbal/reading score; m: math score

For more information about EXPLORE, ACT, SAT, and their differences, and to determine which tests are appropriate for first-time and repeat test-takers, see the Testing Recommendations chart at [www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats/downloads_parents](http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats/downloads_parents).
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 www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats/register. 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/program/test_center.

3. Activate your NUMATS Toolbox. When your child’s registration is finalized, you will gain access to a secured, personalized, online NUMATS Toolbox account at toolbox.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 NUMATS 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 now 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 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.

• NUMATS Fee Waiver — Submit eligibility letter and NUMATS fee will be waived for only one test taken during the school year.
• Jack Kent Cooke (JKC) Fee Waiver — Available on a limited first-come, first-served basis to students in grade 7 who receive a NUMATS Fee Waiver; JKC pays test fee. Students may receive no more than one JKC waiver per school year.
• Test Fee Waiver — Available on a limited first-come, first-served basis to those who receive a NUMATS Fee Waiver. Students may receive no more than one test fee waiver per school year.

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. 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 NUMATS 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 $16.50 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 don’t 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 NUMATS 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. Test dates can be found at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats/program/dates.

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 a 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 NUMATS 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 NUMATS 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.
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 NUMATS Toolbox at toolbox.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 2015 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 NUMATS 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 NUMATS 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 NUMATS Toolbox for an updated version of CTD’s Educational Program Guide.

April–June
• NUMATS recognition certificates are mailed.

May–September
• State award ceremonies are held.

September
• NUMATS Award Ceremony is held.
## NUMATS 2014–2015 Testing Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEST</th>
<th>REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINE</th>
<th>LATE REGISTRATION PERIOD¹</th>
<th>TEST DATES</th>
<th>REGULAR FEES²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NUMATS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPLORE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 8, 2014</td>
<td>October 9–12, 2014</td>
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<td>ACT³</td>
<td>August 6, 2014</td>
<td>August 7–19, 2014</td>
<td>September 13, 2014</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September 17, 2014</td>
<td>September 18–30, 2014</td>
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<td></td>
<td>November 5, 2014</td>
<td>November 6–18, 2014</td>
<td>December 13, 2014</td>
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<td></td>
<td>March 11, 2015</td>
<td>March 12–24, 2015</td>
<td>April 18, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 5, 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 6, 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Late fees are assessed during late registration periods: EXPLORE—$14 and ACT—$24.
2 Refunds are not provided for regular fees or late fees.
3 ACT Writing may not be added if registration is completed during a late registration period.

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