

Center for Talent Development

Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS)

Guide to Participation for Schools

Assessment for advanced students in grades 3 through 9 that

- *Accurately identifies academic strengths and learning needs*
- *Determines the level of differentiation or acceleration required for growth*
- *Provides data and resources to support talent development*

Northwestern | CTD

The Purpose of Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS)

Helping students reach their full potential is an important mission for educators. NUMATS assessments and resources help ensure educators have the tools to fulfill that mission for advanced learners.

By using above-grade-level assessments (PSAT™ 8/9 for students in grades 3-6 and SAT® or ACT® for students in grades 6-9), NUMATS offers a more nuanced profile of your advanced students' learning needs. When given as above-grade-level assessments to high-achieving students, the tests used in NUMATS reveal the type

of content students are ready to learn and assess readiness for acceleration, allowing educators to differentiate instruction to the appropriate level and make well-informed decisions about programs and services.



ASSESS

INFORM

GUIDE

Table of Contents

////////////////////////////////////	
NUMATS Overview	2
Determining NUMATS Eligibility and Selecting the Appropriate Test	3
Pathways to Participation in NUMATS	4
Establishing a PSAT 8/9 administration site (Grades 3-6)	5
Establishing an SAT or ACT administration site (Grades 6-9)	5
Financial Aid/Fee Waivers	6
Registering Students	7
Test Dates, Locations, and Fees	8
NUMATS Toolbox for School Coordinators	9
Score Reports and Using NUMATS Data	9
Other Center for Talent Development Services	9
Contact NUMATS	10

NUMATS Overview

NUMATS provides access for students in grades 3 through 9 to assessments designed to measure high school, college and career readiness that are traditionally taken by older students. When these more challenging tests are given to younger students, they measure academic achievement, aptitude, and readiness for learning, which may include content significantly above-grade-level. This approach to assessment has been researched extensively and used with great success since Dr. Julian Stanley at Johns Hopkins University first developed the Talent Search model nearly 50 years ago.

Through NUMATS, students in grades 3 through 6 take the PSAT™ 8/9 and students in grades 7 through 9 (and the highest achieving students in grade 6) take the SAT® or ACT®. The results of these tests pinpoint what students know and are ready to learn. Given annually, the tests can also be used to monitor academic growth and the impact of programming.



Pathways to Participation in NUMATS

School or District Participation in NUMATS National Test Dates

Grades 3-6:

- PSAT 8/9 national test date: School administrators can arrange to host the PSAT 8/9 on a national test date. National dates are held on a Saturday or Sunday morning during January and February. Sites can be limited to students from the school or district or can be open for any student in the area interested in taking the PSAT 8/9 through NUMATS.

Grades 6-9:

- Since the SAT and ACT are secure tests administered by the College Board and ACT, students will register to take an assessment at a local test center on a national test date. Many local high schools are SAT and ACT test sites and can accommodate NUMATS testers. As a convenience to families, schools/districts that want to have groups of students participate in NUMATS but do not have a national site nearby may apply to be a test center. Some restrictions apply. Inquire with NUMATS for more information.

School or District Participation in NUMATS In-House Administration (NUMATS for Schools)

School administrators can arrange to administer a NUMATS assessment on-site in your district, on a school-selected date and time. NUMATS staff will help facilitate the process of procuring the tests (I-Excel, PSAT 8/9 or SAT) directly from the vendor.



We will also help get all of your students registered via NUMATS. Access the NUMATS for Schools Document to learn more.

Fees for Testing

If schools are paying the cost for the NUMATS testing for students, arrangements will need to be made with NUMATS in advance for direct billing. At that time, directions will be provided for how to register students. Contact NUMATS for a price quote.

If schools DO NOT plan to cover the cost for NUMATS testing for students, parents will need to be provided with information about fees involved and how to register their students. NUMATS can provide you with a sample letter to guide parents through the process. Current fees for testing are posted on the NUMATS website at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats. Fee waivers are available on a first-come, first-served basis to qualified students.

Individual Families Participating in NUMATS

Even if schools or districts choose not to provide NUMATS to all of their advanced learners or limit group participation to specific grades, CTD asks that information about NUMATS be shared with families of all eligible students, so that parents can make an informed choice about the program. Schools can support the process in the following ways:

- Identify eligible students at each grade level,
- Send out a letter to parents (template available through NUMATS),
- Monitor registrations and access test results, if desired.

Families register and pay directly with NUMATS. During the registration process, families will be asked if they would like to send test results to their child's school.

Seventy percent of NUMATS participants learn about the program through a contact at their school, and having access to the resources provided is a short- and long-term benefit to families. Please direct families to the [NUMATS website](http://www.numats.org) and provide materials that describe the NUMATS program and process.

I-Excel (grades 4-6)

Center for Talent Development works collaboratively with the Belin-Blank Center at the University of Iowa to help schools bring I-Excel testing and NUMATS resources to schools and families. Email NUMATS at numats@northwestern.edu to learn how you can set up I-Excel testing along with NUMATS resources.

Financial Aid/Fee Waivers

NUMATS offers need-based financial aid in the form of fee waivers for students who qualify for federally subsidized programs.

Registrants, if registering individually, may request financial aid during the registration process by providing one of the forms of documenting need listed below. If schools or districts are covering the cost of NUMATS participation, waivers can be requested for the number of students who will be participating who meet the qualifications.

Students can provide documentation of financial need in the following ways:

- A letter stating a student meets the fee-waiver eligibility/free or reduced lunch criteria, written on school letterhead and signed by a school official. [View an example of a financial aid eligibility letter.](#)
- A copy of the front and back of a current Medicaid card with the child listed as a dependent.
- The first two pages of the family's most recent federal tax return with the child listed as a dependent; ensure that all Social Security information is blacked out.

Documentation must be submitted to NUMATS during the registration process.

Questions about free/reduced price lunch eligibility letters or other forms of documentation should be directed to NUMATS.

NUMATS registrants seeking financial aid may receive one or more of the following, depending on availability:

- **NUMATS Fee Waiver** – Available on a first-come, first served basis to students registering for PSAT 8/9, SAT or ACT.
- **Test Fee Waiver** – Available on a first-come, first-served basis for SAT and ACT only; College Board does not provide fee waivers for PSAT 8/9, but does discount the test fee for qualified students. Also, because students in grade 9 registering for SAT must do so in a two-step process, they will need to request a waiver directly from College Board.

Learn more about the [Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Program](#) and resources for high-ability students with financial need.



Registering Students

NUMATS utilizes an online application for the majority of applicants. The application is available at my.ctd.northwestern.edu.

School Pay Registrations

If your school will be paying the fees for NUMATS registrations, you will need to complete a School Payment Form prior to having students register online. The steps for School Pay registration are as follows:

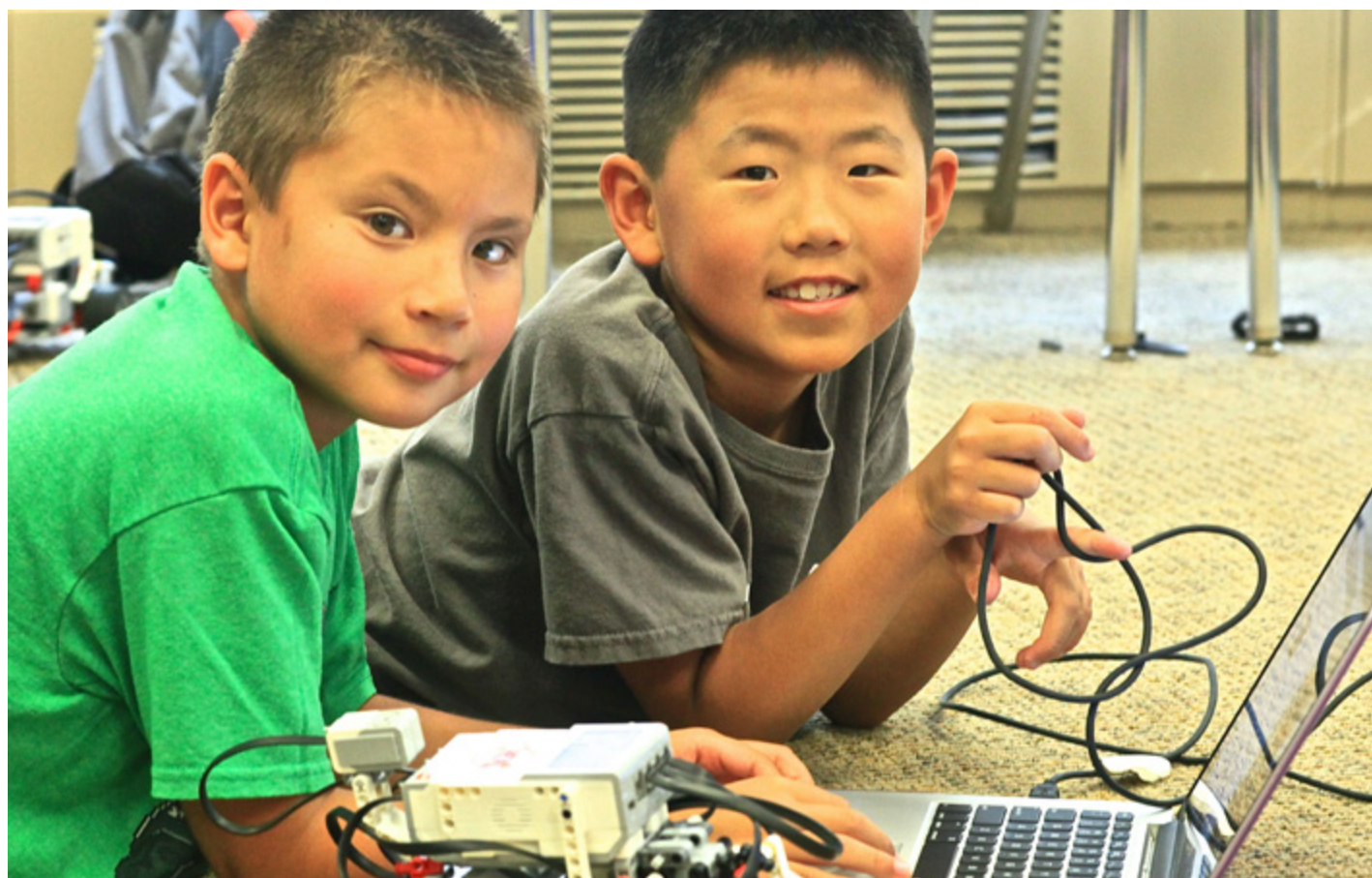
1. Complete a [School Payment Form](#) and submit the list of students approved to test. Be sure to indicate which students are eligible for a fee waiver.
2. Once you have received confirmation that your School Payment Form has been processed, begin the student notification and registration process.
3. Provide parents with the [NUMATS Family Guide](#) and [Registration Letter](#) (on the NUMATS web page under Educator Resources). You may want to host a parent meeting to introduce NUMATS, answer questions, and help parents with the registration process. Parents will need to register online at my.ctd.northwestern.edu. Contact NUMATS if you are

interested the possibility of having a NUMATS representative visit your school or district to meet with parents and/or staff (in person or virtually).

Family Pay Registrations

If parents will be paying the fees for NUMATS registrations, please provide the information necessary to complete the process. The steps in planning for individual family registration are as follows:

1. Plan to host a parent meeting to introduce NUMATS, answer questions, and help parents begin the registration process. Contact NUMATS if you are interested the possibility of having a NUMATS representative visit your school or district to meet with parents and/or staff (in person or virtually).
2. Provide parents with the [NUMATS Family Guide](#) and [Registration Letter](#) (on the NUMATS web page under Educator Resources).
3. Ensure qualified families with financial need are aware of fee waiver opportunities.
4. Parents will need to register online at my.ctd.northwestern.edu.



Test Dates, Locations, and Fees

See the chart below for this year's test dates, registration deadlines, and fees. These fees are for individual student registrations. If you plan to test more than 10 students, contact NUMATS for pricing. Please note that NUMATS registration deadlines may differ from test agency deadlines to accommodate processing time.

Locations

Test centers are available in many cities across the country. Locations may vary by test date, so be sure to have students explore options on different test dates. Look up the most current list of available test centers by state and date on the NUMATS website:

ctd.northwestern.edu/numats-test-centers. If there is no location near your school or district, consider becoming a test center. For more information, email us at numats@northwestern.edu.

Test	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Period ¹	Test Dates ²	NUMATS FEE	TEST FEE		TOTAL
I-Excel	Varies	Varies	TBD by School within test agency approved testing windows	\$45	\$45		\$90
PSAT 8/9	December 3, 2020	Not Available	January 9, 2021	\$45	\$38		\$83
	January 7, 2021		February 13, 2021				
	January 7, 2021		February 14, 2021				
SAT ³	September 3, 2020	Not Available through NUMATS. Call test center directly and purchase NUMATS only resources.	October 3, 2020	\$45	\$52 Without Essay	\$68 With Essay	\$97 Without Essay
	October 7, 2020		November 7, 2020				\$113 With Essay
	November 4, 2020		December 5, 2020				
	February 11, 2021		March 13, 2021				
	April 8, 2021		May 8, 2021				
	May 5, 2021		June 5, 2021				
ACT ⁴	August 25, 2020	Not Available	September 12, 2020	\$45	\$55		\$100
	September 30, 2020		October 24, 2020				
	November 18, 2020		December 12, 2020				
	January 13, 2021		February 6, 2021				
	March 24, 2021		April 17, 2021				
	May 19, 2021		June 12, 2021				
	June 23, 2021		July 17, 2021				

¹ SAT charges a late fee of \$30. Families must register online or by phone directly with College Board.

² Non-Saturday test dates are available for students whose religious observance prohibits testing on Saturdays. Students must submit a letter from clergy to NUMATS. Dates and locations may vary depending on the state.

³ SAT Essay is optional and may be added in the NUMATS registration process. NUMATS percentiles are not provided.

⁴ ACT Writing is optional and may be added by contacting the testing agency if the registration is completed by the regular deadline. Cost is \$15. NUMATS percentiles are not provided.

NUMATS Toolbox for School Coordinators

Each school or district that has students registered for NUMATS has access to an online NUMATS Toolbox to track registrations, review test scores, and access interpretive materials.

For help setting up a Toolbox account, or to see if your school already has an account, contact NUMATS at numats@northwestern.edu.

If you already have a Toolbox account, you should be able to log in with your user name and password each year. Forgotten passwords can be reset online at my.ctd.northwestern.edu.

Score Reports and Using NUMATS Data

Resources for Schools or Districts

The NUMATS Toolbox provides a variety of resources. In the Toolbox it is possible to

- Track student registrations (see complete and incomplete registration status);
- Help students prepare for their test date (test prep materials, what to bring on test day, who to contact for assistance, etc.);
- View and download student test scores (current year and previous years, downloadable to an Excel spreadsheet); and
- Access the annual statistical summary (for benchmarking student performance).

Resources for Students

The NUMATS program has made exciting updates to student level reporting in the Toolbox. By clicking on an individual student score report, it is possible to find:

- Test scale scores (composite/combined and sub-goal areas)
- Student NUMATS percentiles (comparing scale scores to other NUMATS participants who took the same test and are in the same grade)
- Learning statements aligned to scale scores (produced and aligned by test agencies)
- Program and placement guidance tied to percentiles
- Family Guide to understanding the scores

If a school system or coordinator is interested in learning more about the report features and how to use the data, please schedule a consultation at numats@northwestern.edu.

Other Comprehensive Center for Talent Development Services for Schools

Center for Talent Development (CTD) at Northwestern University is a leader in the field of gifted education, helping schools implement programs and services to identify and nurture exceptional talent in young people. Collaborating with CTD can help schools identify advanced academic potential in inclusive and equitable ways, create enriched and accelerated programs and services that meet students' needs, use assessment tools that effectively monitor and track growth and achievement for the highest achievers, and develop policies and procedures that reflect best practices and meet state requirements.

CTD School Services team members are available to work to develop a package that meets the needs of school systems, including the following services:

- Consulting (hourly or by project)
- Gifted program evaluation
- Professional learning (Gifted Education Boot Camp, custom workshops, etc.)
- Programming for students: Enrichment curriculum units; customizable enrichment and credit-bearing, accelerated online courses; service-learning and leadership experiences
- Policy development
- Assessment and growth monitoring

Contact a CTD School Services team member to discuss your needs.

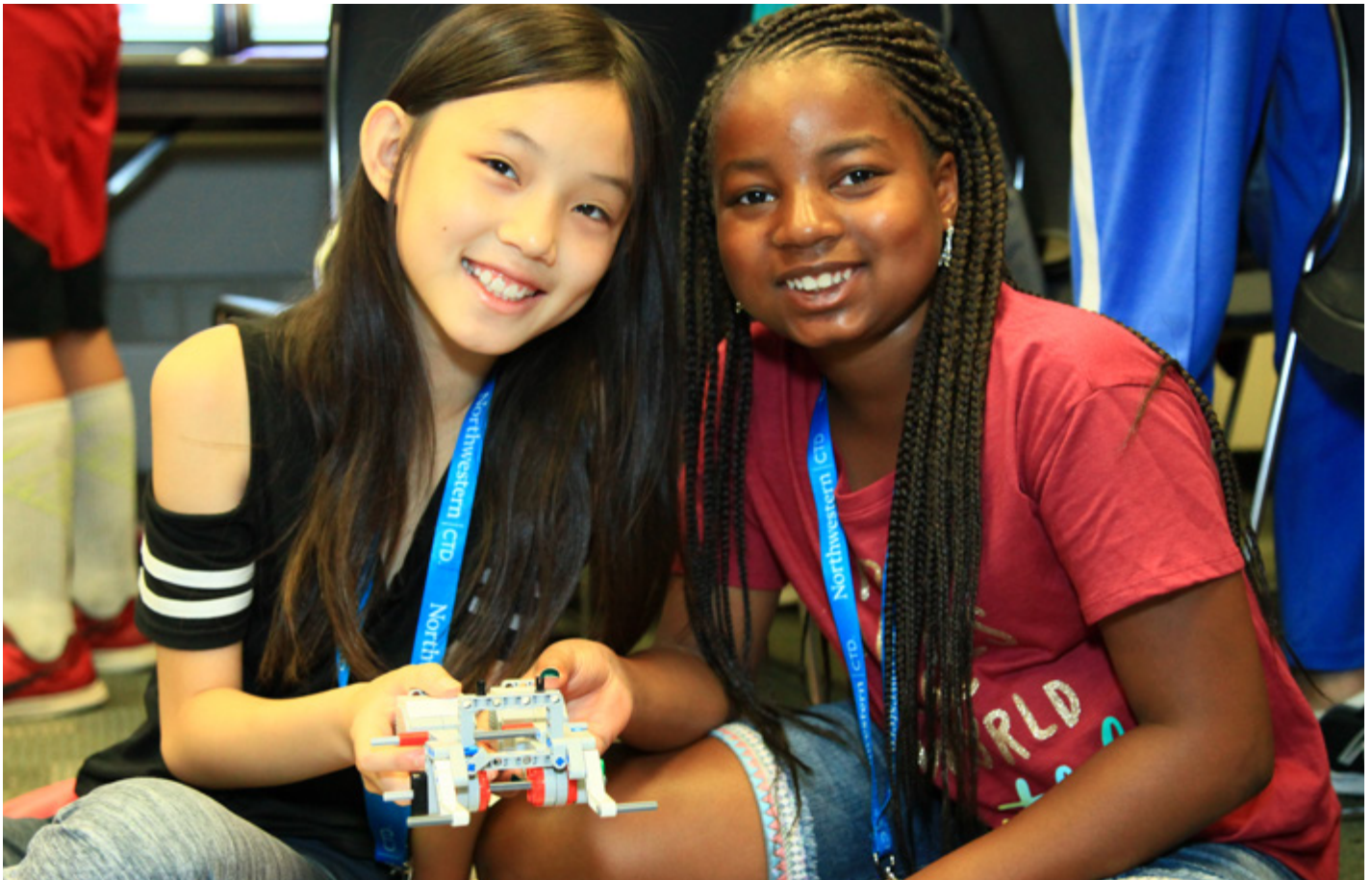
- Email: ctd-school-services@northwestern.edu

Contact NUMATS

Additional details about the NUMATS program and registration for testing is available in the Details section of the NUMATS web page at ctd.northwestern.edu/numats. For current school participants, resources and previous test score data are available by logging into your online Toolbox (my.ctd.northwestern.edu).

For questions or to arrange a consult with NUMATS representatives, please contact NUMATS:

- **E-mail:** numats@northwestern.edu
- **Phone:** 847/491-3782 ext. 2 (Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Central)



Northwestern | Center for Talent Development
School of Education and Social Policy

**Center for Talent Development
at Northwestern University
NUMATS**

617 Dartmouth Place
Evanston, IL 60208
ctd@northwestern.edu

