

MEMO

To: Eugene Butler, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services

From: Martha Taylor (ALE Director) and Helen LePage (GATE Coordinator)

Re: CogAT Analysis

Date: September 5, 2014

In Spring, 2013, the District adopted an updated version of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGAT) for grades 3-8. This decision was made to ensure that students would benefit from a revised and improved test version that reflected new research in the field of child cognitive development. The recent Form 7 represented the first revision of the assessment since the publication of Form 6 in 2001. Among the changes made to the test was the introduction of new item types, an updating of test questions, and enhanced interpretation resources. Both GATE and University High School administered Form 7 in SY1314.

With the elimination of the Otis-Lemon School Ability Test (OLSAT), the GATE department will be adopting Form 7 of the CogAT for grades k-2 as well. The advantage of using this Form at the lower grades is that the CogAT is now entirely pictorial with revised test items, and only one subtest out of three on the verbal section requires any comprehension of oral language.