

What is out-of-level testing?

Optional Out-Of-Level Testing and Programs for young students

Belin-Blank Exceptional Student Talent Search (BESTS)

An above-level assessment program for students in grades 4-9. A test developed for older children is administered to younger students to provide further information about academic needs. Test sites are available in the greater Des Moines area. Costs vary. There are specific test dates for the Talent Search. A “future BESTS” program, without testing opportunities, is available for grades 2-3.

EXPLORE test (grades 4-6)

A two-hour test is designed for 8th graders and measures academic development in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning.

ACT Assessment (grades 7-9)

A three-hour test designed for college-bound high school students that measures academic development in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning.

SAT I Assessment (grades 7-9)

A three-hour test designed for college-bound high school students that measures reasoning rather than specific high school curriculum.

These tests provide:

- More specific information on your child’s strengths
- Further development of test taking skills
- Access to summer enrichment/ advanced programs through the Belin-Blank Center

Eligible to participate:

Students in grades 2-9 who score at the 95% or above in an ITBS or similar test on Core Total OR Language Total, Maps & Diagrams, Math Computation, Math Concepts, Math Problem Solving, Math Total, Reading, or Science subtests. Students do not have to be in a talented and gifted program to participate. Iowa State University dropped a similar talent identification program that also provided SAT testing. They do provide programs through their Office of Pre-collegiate Programs for Talented and Gifted (OPPTAG). For further information, contact:

OPPTAG
1-800-262-3810 x1772
E-mail: opptag@iowastate.edu
www.public.iastate.edu/~opptag/info

Johnston Community Schools does NOT ENDORSE or REQUIRE any testing program as a part of our Extended Learning Program for Talented and Gifted Students. It is an optional program and scores are only sent to the school with a parental request. By tenth grade, it may be beneficial to have taken at least one out-of-level test.

For further information, or to register, contact:

Belin-Blank Center
The University of Iowa
210 Lindquist Center, Iowa City, IA 52242
1-800-336-6463
www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr

What types of summer activities will enhance learning?

Students today have access to a wide variety of educational opportunities in the summer months. The following list is intended to assist parents in locating enriching summer activities for high-ability students. Please contact the organizations listed for completed and up-to-date information.

Local Day Camps

Living History Farms

Programs for students Grade 1-7
www.lhf.org, 278-5286

Des Moines Playhouse

Multiple programs for students Gr K-12
www.dmplayhouse.com, 255-3741 ext. 209

Science Center of Iowa

Multiple options for students
274-4138 ext. 222

Camp Shalom

Celebrating life, building confidence
277-5566

Blank Park Zoo

Various programs available for
285-4722

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

American Girl Camp
www.gloriadeionline.com

Des Moines Public Schools

Outdoor Adventure Camp for G/T students
242-7733

Des Moines Art Center

Programs for ages 3-17
www.desmoinesartcenter.com, 271-0306

Camp Fire USA

Various camp options for Gr 1-9
CampFireDM@aol.com, 272-1501

Local Day Trips and Activities

Des Moines Art Center

Blank Park Zoo

Botanical Center

Gold Star Museum

Governor's Mansion

Iowa Arboretum

Iowa Historical Building

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

Salisbury House

Saylorville Visitor Center

Science Center

State Capitol

Library reading programs
Bookstores' Story Times
Iowa State Fair (craft and food contests)

Local Summer School Programs

Des Moines Public School

Gifted and Talented Summer Program ,
Gr 1-9, 242-7930 (G/T Office)

Johnston Community Schools

Community Education Programs
for Gr 1-12, 278-0552

West Des Moines Public Schools

Summer Enrichment Adventures
226-2818

Belin/Blank Center

Summer classes for qualified students
www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr/programs,
1-800-336-6463

Drake University

Summer Foreign Language for the
Young, 271-1927

Drake University Community School of Music

Private instrumental and voice
instruction
www.drake.edu/summer, 271-4011

In-State Residential Programs

Iowa State University

A variety of summer courses
Office of Precollegiate Programs for
Talented and Gifted (OPPTAG)
www.opptag@iastate.edu
(515) 294-1772

University of Iowa

Science and humanities summer
program
(319) 335-0040

Belin-Blank Center / Univ of Iowa

Summer courses for qualified students
www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr/programs,
1-800-336-6463

Simpson College

Music and other courses
www.simpson.edu/summer,
(515) 278-5286

Out-of-State Programs

Carleton College (Northfield, MN)

Summer writing and science programs
www.carleton.edu/campus/sap
(507) 646-4038

Delphian School (Sheridan, OR)

Math, science, and study skills
programs
www.delphian.org, 1-800-626-6610

U.S. Space & Aviation Challenge (AL and FL)

Space camp
1-800-63-SPACE, www.spacecamp.com

Creighton University (Omaha, NE)

Ad Astra
1-800-637-4279,
www.creighton.edu/summersessions

Concordia College (Moorhead, MN)

Concordia Language Village
1-800-222-4750,
www.concordialanguagevillages.com

Univ. of Illinois (Champaign, IL)

Engineering studies
www.engr.uiuc.edu, WYSE1-800-843-5410

Northwestern Univ. (Evanston, IL)

Summer for Talent Development
www.ctd.northwestern.edu/programs

Univ. Of Northern Colorado (Greeley, Colorado)

Summer Enrichment Program
www.unco.edu/sep