

Serving Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, New Mexico,
Montana, and Wyoming since 1982

offered through the
Center for Bright Kids
Regional Talent Center



Western Academic Talent Search 2009-2010 WATS Registration Bulletin

Colorado Nonprofit Development Center



9975 Wadsworth Parkway, K2 #504
Westminster, Colorado 80021-6814

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Watch for our new website at www.centerforbrightkids.org!

We hope to have the application and Bulletin for the Western Academic Talent Search available electronically soon—and, we plan to be able to offer online payment. Look for these features toward the end of September!

Once online payment is set up, you can fax in your app and receipt to 303-428-2638 or email us at centerforbrightkids@gmail.com.

Who is Eligible for Rocky Mountain Academic Talent Search?

GRADE

Participants must be in the **3rd-9th grade** and usually live in the WATS region, which includes the states of New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho.

ACADEMIC ABILITY

Candidates must meet at least one of the following criteria for ability and high performance:

1) Must score at or above the 90th% on a nationally normed academic achievement test. This percentile can be a composite/total score or one of the overall scores for verbal or mathematical reasoning or “advanced” criterion.

Test scores must be no more than two years old.

If nationally normed standardized test scores are not available, students may use CSAP (Colorado), WyCAS (Wyoming), or ISAT (Idaho) scores at the “advanced” level. **Previous Talent Search test scores may be used to qualify for Talent Search.**

OR

2) The school counselor, licensed teacher, or home school association official (who may not be the student’s parent) must provide a letter of recommendation endorsing participation in WATS based upon a full year of outstanding performance in a core subject area.

TEST TAKING SKILLS

Candidates should have a previous successful experience taking a long standardized test or demonstrate abilities such as following directions, long attention span, time management, and managing stress.



“You are surrounded by kids just like you who want to learn and succeed.”

- Summer Programs Participant

Talent Search History

The practice of conducting searches for students who reason extremely well mathematically and/or verbally began with the work of Dr. Julian Stanley at Johns Hopkins University in the early 1970’s.

By giving the SAT or ACT to students who are much younger than college-bound students for whom the tests are designed, Talent Search participants are better able to

understand their abilities in relationship to bright peers who all score well on grade-level tests.

Further access is tied to the Talent Search in the form of **summer programs** that provide an “**optimal match**” between student interests and abilities and the academic pace of a program. These programs are available every year at Center for Bright Kids.

CBK Summer Programs (dates tentative)

CBK SHINE
Students Headed Into New Enrichment
(August 1-7, 2010)

Grades 4-6 in fall 2010
Residential Program

CBK GLOW
Gaining Leadership, Obtaining Wisdom
(June 13-26, 2010)

Grades 6-8 in fall 2010
Residential Program

The Luminary Project
(July 4-24, 2010)

Grades 9-11 in fall 2010
Residential Program

Campus to be announced in 2010 Summer Programs Catalogue mailed in February.

CBK Summer Programs

Center for Bright Kids (CBK) Regional Talent Center

Dear Bright Students Advocate -

Welcome to the **28th year of the Western Academic Talent Search!** As you may know, WATS is one program offered through the Center for Bright Kids, one of the four national non-profit Regional Talent Centers. WATS enables **academically talented 3rd through 9th graders to take the ACT, SAT, or EXPLORE test at a much earlier age.** This above-level testing experience allows students to:

- better evaluate their strengths
- practice taking a more challenging test
- compare their scores with other high achieving students
- qualify for special summer opportunities
- receive recognition of their outstanding abilities

We look forward to your support and participation in this year's academic talent search, as it is an excellent opportunity for your students to learn about and gain recognition for their academic abilities. ***While testing is one mere snapshot of academic ability, in this day and age, it has become a tremendous advocacy tool for educators and families of bright kids.***

You may have noticed we have undergone a name change. Our physical office space has moved, so please update your contact information for us. And, in response to family feedback, we have renamed the talent search, once the Rocky Mountain Academic Talent Search, to the more regionally appropriate Western Academic Talent Search. We have also, according to national trends, moved our qualifying threshold to the 90% and have had the expected three-year increase of \$5 for registration (test companies raise these fees by \$1-\$2/year). Other than these name and location changes, our program is the exactly the same. This Bulletin provides much more detail on the WATS program. Please note the application process – for ACT and SAT, we have a two step registration, while for EXPLORE, this process is one step.

Please discuss the WATS program with personnel at your school – in an age of phishing and scams, we want to assure you that the academic talent search has a long-standing national reputation for excellence, advocacy, and educational purpose and is affiliated with Johns Hopkins, Duke, and Northwestern Universities as our other Regional Talent Centers. We ask that you do not hesitate to call us with any questions or concerns about **WATS and CBK at 303-428-2634 or email us at centerforbrightkids@gmail.com.**

Let's recognize our kids for their academic accomplishments and open some additional doors for educational opportunities and scholarship. Please present the program and distribute the application bulletins to counselors, teachers, parents and qualified students as soon as possible. Thank you so much for your advocacy and participation – we hope to talk with you soon!

You Are Invited!

The Center for Bright Kids invites you to participate in the 28th annual Western Academic Talent Search. This program provides opportunities for assessment and recognition, as well as advocacy, parent education and resources, and summer residential acceleration and enrichment programs for academically talented youth in grades 3-9.

What is Academic Talent Search?

The national Academic Talent Search is an opportunity for students to take **"above-level" testing** typically not available until college entrance. These tests offer a **"higher ceiling"** than standardized state or other national grade-level tests on which these talented kids are already receiving top scores. While **Talent Search test scores offer only one snapshot of students' abilities**, they are an excellent means for helping kids evaluate their academic strengths in order to advocate for their educational needs, to access academic programming, or to design individualized educational plans. Talent Search is a great tool for bright kids and families looking for a resource to learn more about their students' abilities and options.

Over 150,000 students participate annually in the regional Talent Searches.

The Specifics	EXPLORE	ACT	SAT
Grades Included	3-6	6-9	6-9
Testing Dates	Jan 23 and Feb 20	Dec 12 and Feb 6	Dec 5 and Jan 23
Fees	\$70 WATS	\$40 WATS; \$32 ACT	\$40 WATS; \$45 SAT

WATS Coordinator's Guide

WATS seeks the assistance of schools in order to identify academically talented and highly motivated students who qualify for this special opportunity. Here are the ways your school or family liaison can participate in assisting us in this process:

- 1) Carefully read the materials in this Bulletin.
- 2) Identify whether a coordinator already exists or did exist at your school or in your district – make sure you touch base with your district or school personnel for gifted and talented. Please email us this updated information at centerforbrightkids@gmail.com!
- 3) Identify students with qualifying criteria – many states, such as Colorado, have gone to a proficiency measurement rather than a percentile. Any student with an “advanced” on any section of the state standardized test (in Colorado the CSAP) qualifies for WATS – otherwise, you are looking for the 90% or higher. GPA or Honor Roll lists are sometimes also helpful – **one recommendation letter from you including a list of qualifying students can serve in place of qualifying test scores.**
- 4) Invite those qualifying students to participate – please email us if you would like us to send you an electronic sample letter template that you can edit to make this process simpler. Prior participants will have been invited back by WATS.
- 5) Call the WATS office at 303-428-2634 or email us to request additional copies of the Bulletin or 0910 Application (students must use the current year appl). You are welcome to copy any of these materials as needed, or we can send you a box if we have ample advance notice. Also, call us or email as a liaison for your school, district, or community with any recurring questions or feedback so that we might continue to improve the program materials.
- 6) Post the test dates and deadlines on the back of the Bulletin in a convenient location – you might run a copy with your invitation letter (we can also email this document to you).
- 7) Hold a family information meeting prior to or following sending out the invitations for participation. **Let us know if you would like us to join you to present the program** and answer questions. We also can hold school district or community large group meetings for staff and/or families if this is more effective in your area. For communities outside of Colorado, we can coach you through this presentation and provide materials. For larger presentations, we may also be able to travel and provide this service for your large group.
- 8) Assist families with the application process, ensuring applicants meet the appropriate deadlines and are filled out correctly – see the checklist on the back of the Bulletin.
- 9) In late March/early April, you will receive a list of all of those students who elected to test and release score information to schools. Many of these students will be invited to the state recognition ceremony, if one is available in your location. Scores and recognition will be noted on your list. **We invite you to also attend the ceremony to share in your students' recognition.**
- 10) Distribute participation certificates we will send to you with your list in April to students who registered with WATS (certificates and score info only for students who released info to the schools will be included in this mailing). You might include distribution of these certificates in your school's end of the year ceremony.

Tips and Hints Regarding Academic Talent Search Registration:

- It is important for each parent to have the WATS Bulletin (full-color four page fold-out) and an application (included inside the Bulletin) for families to receive complete info.
- Western Academic Talent Search (WATS) fee to process the application is a one time amount of \$40.00 per applicant. No matter how many tests the students plan to take it is still one \$40 application fee. This is the ONLY fee to include with the application unless testing for EXPLORE. There will be fees that need to be paid to the ACT and SAT test companies during the second step of registration that will be mailed to families.
- If taking the EXPLORE test an additional fee of \$30.00 per applicant is applied. So the check amount would be \$70.00 per applicant and this amount is made payable to CNDC CBK with the application for a one-step process.
- If taking the SAT or ACT, the test fees are paid directly to the companies with the secondary registration – only a \$40 fee is paid to CNDC CBK.
- WATS does not charge the late fee – the testing company does. Therefore, if you receive the secondary registration for SAT or ACT late due to late registration with WATS and you will not make the original postmark deadlines of the company, do not send a late fee to WATS. The late fee will be included with the testing company fee when you mail your secondary registration to SAT or ACT. WATS fee remains \$40, unless registering for EXPLORE, then include \$70 + late fee.
- Each applicant needs to have copies of either a score report or a letter of recommendation for eligibility attached to the application. Application cannot be processed without this information.
- Our website will have a lot of great information, including program descriptions, test dates and test sites, deadlines for applying and the downloadable WATS application forms with online payment: www.centerforbrightkids.org. We hope to have this up by the end of September.
- Please have the families phone us at 303-428-2634 or email us at centerforbrightkids@gmail.com for more information or to have questions answered.

Other Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1) Can I take more than one test? YES – still one \$40 WATS fee no matter how many tests you choose to take. 6th graders can take all three. You will only pay WATS ONCE.
- 2) Which test should I take? Depends on the kid. ACT and EXPLORE kids tend to be content-driven, do well in school, absorb content knowledge easily, and watch educational programs; SAT kids tend to be problem-solvers, puzzlers, pattern-finders, and critical thinkers. Kids who have never taken a long test should start with EXPLORE.
- 3) What about financial aid? Include free and reduced lunch documentation or income tax forms with application for consideration and check for \$20. Can be free or low-cost.
- 4) How do I find a local test site? Go to www.centerforbrightkids.org and click on “Enroll Now,” then scroll down to “Test Locations” and click on company to search near you. This website should be up by the end of September.



Center for Bright Kids Regional Talent Center Western Academic Talent Search

2009-2010 Application

Incomplete or illegible applications will not be processed.

WATS cannot be responsible for errors due to handwritten application clarity.

Applications will not be processed without fees or copies of eligibility (scores or letter).

Applications **MUST** be RECEIVED by appropriate deadlines to process. This will take 3-5 weeks. We cannot guarantee applications received within the late window will allow enough time for ACT/SAT late registration.

Be sure to include the \$40 WATS fee (and the \$30 EXPLORE fee if taking that test) made payable to **CNDC CBK** with this application to Center for Bright Kids, 9975 Wadsworth Pkwy, K2#504, Westminster, CO 80021.

Student Name

Last _____ First _____ M.I. _____
(when you complete your SAT or ACT registration, please make sure this is exactly how you list your name so that files can be matched)

Mailing Address

Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 (Area Code) Phone Number _____ E-mail Address (we must have this to contact you regarding Recognition Ceremonies – this is never shared) _____

Student Identification Information

Social Security # (optional for student verification) _____ Gender _____ Birthdate (M/D/Y) _____
 Age: ____ Years ____ Months Grade Level: 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Ethnic Description

Expected Year of High School Graduation _____

- Black/African American White/Caucasian Hispanic/Latino American
 Indian/Native American Asian/Pacific Islander Other

Grade	3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/>
Test	EXPLORE	SAT	ACT
Date	Jan 23 <input type="checkbox"/>	Dec 5 <input type="checkbox"/>	Dec 12 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Feb 20 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 23 <input type="checkbox"/>	Feb 6 <input type="checkbox"/>

EXPLORE Test Site Code _____ Second Choice _____ Late Date _____ Late Date _____

RMATS Coordinator/School Contact Person

Last _____ First _____ Position _____

School Address

Name of School _____ Public Private Home School
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 (Area Code) Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Center for Bright Kids • Western Academic Talent Search
 9975 Wadsworth Pkwy, K2 #504, Westminster, CO 80021 • 303.428-2634 • centerforbrightkids@gmail.com

Eligibility

Student has scored at or above the 90th percentile or received an advanced score on a nationally normed or state standardized test (i.e. ITBS, Terra Nova, Stanford, CSAP, WYCAS, ISAT). This percentile can be a composite score or score for a subtest in verbal or mathematical reasoning only. Criterion may be marked "advanced".

Contact your school for test scores.

You must include a photocopy of your score report with this application in order to continue processing.

OR

Student's school counselor, licensed teacher, or home school association official has included a letter of recommendation with this application endorsing the student's outstanding academic performance in verbal or mathematical reasoning content areas.

You must include a copy of the letter with this application in order to continue processing.

How Did You Hear About RMATS?

School CBK Office CBK Website CBK Programs Mailing Other _____

Additional Information

1) Do you give permission for CBK to release your child's SAT/ACT/EXPLORE test scores to the school upon request to the CBK offices?
 YES NO

2) Do you give permission for CBK to release your child's name and address only to selected educational organizations requesting information on talented students from the CBK offices?
 YES NO

3) *Optional Information Regarding Income*
(allows WATS to provide you with additional information on scholarships and financial aid opportunities for programs)

Approximate annual household income level

\$20,000 or less \$21,000-\$40,000 \$41,000-\$60,000 \$60,000-\$100,000 \$100K+

Is your child eligible for the federal free and reduced lunch program? YES NO

Family Contact Information

Parent/Guardian Name

Day Phone (area code) Number and Work/Cell Number

Certification

I hereby certify that this student meets the Western Academic Talent Search eligibility requirements for high performance/ability. I hereby give permission for participation in the Talent Search and understand that regardless of whether a test is taken, I am paying a non-refundable \$40 application fee for processing and the additional benefits of this participation.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Checklist to Make Sure You Have Everything

- ✓ SIGN your application
- ✓ Include a photocopy of proof of eligibility (score report or letter)
- ✓ Include check made payable to CNDC CBK. No matter how many tests you take, you pay one \$40 WATS fee. For EXPLORE, the \$70 WATS fee must be included at registration. For SAT and ACT, you will only send your \$40 WATS fee. Include WATS late fee now if appropriate.

Three to five weeks following WATS registration, if you are taking the ACT or SAT, you will receive a packet in the mail to self-register for this test—DO NOT DISCARD this packet. Call us if you do not receive this packet four weeks prior to testing. Please use the instructions provided in that packet to self-register as a WATS student to take the test and select a testing site—you MUST complete this second application in order to participate and will include the appropriate SAT (\$45) or ACT (\$32) fees to those companies at that time. This includes any SAT or ACT late fee.

Late test dates are available – please see Bulletin – you can write in the test date on this application.

Why Should I Participate in Talent Search?

Talent Search research conducted at the national level has demonstrated that:

Grade level testing often does not reveal the upper limits of student abilities.

Participants gain early experience taking an above-level or college entrance test, reporting increased comfort with standardized testing and significant score gains.

During the spring, students receive the Summer Opportunities Guide, which lists special programs across the country for high ability students.

Students network with other bright kids.

Top scoring participants are invited to a regional Recognition Ceremony, if one is offered in your state.

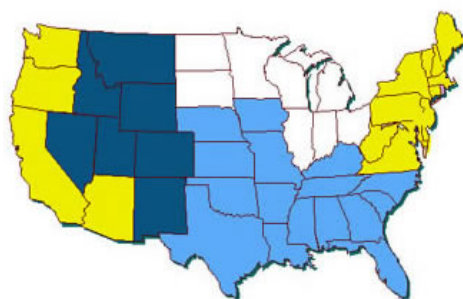
During the spring, participants receive the Interpretive Guide, which provides information needed to interpret test scores in relationship to other age-level Talent Search participants across the Rocky Mountain region. Younger students are not otherwise able to take these tests. Scores are archived by WATS but do not become a part of the student's permanent academic record.

With permission, schools receive information about talent search results. School officials are better able to accommodate students with this information. Scholarship opportunities become available and many gates are opened into higher level programming. Talent Search is an outstanding resume-builder.

Students are invited to participate in the CBK Summer Programs, designed to provide an optimal match and allow students to develop a socio-emotional network of peers. Many students age through these programs with new CBK friends.

Talent Search scores open doors to many advanced opportunities, scholarships, entrance requirements, grade-level adjustments, or schools for gifted.

Talent Search Service Regions



- Northwestern University Center for Talent Development
- Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth
- Duke University Talent Identification Program
- Center for Bright Kids Regional Talent Center

Where Can I Take the Test?

Talent Search testing is available in every service region we serve, though not every community. For some tests and in some more rural areas, some travel is required to access the test site. Specific testing site locations are available at registration by checking the test companies' websites:

SAT 866.756.7346 <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about/SATI.html>

ACT 319.337.1270 <http://www.actstudent.org/>

EXPLORE 319.337.1369 <http://www.actstudent.org/explore/ests/>

Fee Reduction, Waivers, and Special Accommodations

Reduced-rate WATS registrations of \$20, full test company fee waivers, and special testing accommodations are available for this program with documentation of need. Please include qualifying 2009 tax returns for consideration along with your application and a \$20 check or contact CBK regarding these special circumstances.

A bright spot for bright kids...

2009-2010 Western Academic Talent Search (WATS) through the Center for Bright Kids WATS registration begins September 14

ACT	Test Date	STEP ONE (WATS)		STEP TWO (FAMILY)	
		WATS Postmark Deadline	WATS Late Postmark	ACT Packet Deadline	ACT LATE Packet Deadline
Registration Fee: \$40 Paid to CNDC CBK \$32 Paid later to ACT Late Registration: \$21 Date/Site Change: \$20 Standby Testing: \$41	12/12	10/9	11/2	11/6	11/20
	2/6	12/7	12/18	1/5	1/15
SAT	Test Date	STEP ONE (WATS)		STEP TWO (FAMILY)	
		WATS Postmark Deadline	WATS Late Postmark	SAT Packet Deadline	SAT LATE Packet Deadline
Registration fee: \$40 Paid to CNDC CBK \$45 Paid later to SAT Late registration: \$23 Date/Site Change: \$22 Standby Testing: \$38	12/5	10/9	10/20	10/30	11/12
	1/23	11/23	12/7	12/15	12/30

EXPLORE	Test Date	STEP ONE (WATS)	
		WATS Postmark Deadline	RMATS Late Postmark
Registration Fee: \$70 paid to CNDC CBK (\$40 WATS fee + \$30 test fee) Late Registration: \$20 Date/Site Change: \$19 No Standby Testing	1/23	12/14	12/30
	2/20	1/14	1/23

Please remember that the **ACT and SAT are a two-step registration** process. Participants must meet the WATS deadlines FIRST, then are responsible for making the test company deadlines – **watch the mail for registration packets**. The **EXPLORE is a one-step** process with WATS deadlines only. Late testing dates are available, but **will not qualify** students for State Recognition Ceremonies (SAT 3/13 & 5/1; ACT 4/10).

For example, in order to take the February 6th ACT, students must submit a **WATS application to CBK** before December 7th. **ACT materials will then be mailed to the family**, who must complete them using the Talent Search codes and then **send ACT materials directly to ACT** before January 5th.

How Do I Get Signed Up? Are there Deadlines?

- 1) Send your completed application to Center for Bright Kids
⇒ SIGN your application
⇒ Include a photocopy of proof of eligibility (score report or letter)
⇒ Include **check made payable to CNDC CBK**.

For EXPLORE, the \$70 WATS fee must be included at registration.

For SAT and ACT, you will only send your \$40 WATS fee.

Include WATS late fee now if appropriate.

- 2) Three to five weeks following WATS registration, **if you are taking the ACT or SAT, you will receive a packet in the mail to self-register** for this test—**DO NOT DISCARD this packet**. Please use the instructions provided in this packet to self-register as a WATS student to take the test and select a testing site—you **MUST** complete this second application in order to participate and will **include the appropriate SAT (\$45) or ACT (\$32) fees at this time**. This includes any SAT or ACT late fee.

Incomplete or illegible applications will not be processed. WATS is not be responsible for errors due to handwritten application clarity. Applications will not be processed without fees or eligibility. Applications MUST be RECEIVED by appropriate deadlines to process.

If you would like additional copies of the application or would like a copy emailed to you, or if you have any questions, please contact the CBK office at 303.428.2634 or centerforbrightkids@gmail.com

Which Test Do I Select?

WATS does not recommend one test over another. Any of the three tests are appropriate for Talent Search participants. When choosing a test, families should also consider which date and location will be most convenient, as again, some tests in some locations will require travel. Students taking the SAT or ACT will test alongside high school students who are testing for college admission. These students will not receive a different version of these tests. Students are also not encouraged to spend time studying for these tests, other than to become familiar with the format and types of questions.

SAT

Grades 6-9

The SAT is a three-hour test with three sections measuring reasoning skills in math, critical reading, and writing. The writing test is now part of recognition ceremony and interpretive guide data.

ACT

Grades 6-9

The ACT is a three-hour test that focuses on core curriculum knowledge acquired in school. There are four sections: math, English, reading, and science. The writing section is optional for all students and is not part of Talent Search recognition ceremony or interpretive guide data.

EXPLORE

Grades 3-6

The EXPLORE is a two-hour test written in the same format as the ACT.