



Western Academic Talent Search

2011-2012 WATS Registration Bulletin and Application



offered through the
Center for Bright Kids
Regional Talent Development Center

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

Center for Bright Kids (CBK) Regional Talent Development Center

You Are Invited to Participate in the Western Academic Talent Search (WATS)!

Welcome to the 30th year of the Western Academic Talent Search! WATS is one program offered through the Center for Bright Kids, one of the national non-profit Regional Talent Development 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 or academic year opportunities or scholarships
- 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.*

This Bulletin provides much more detail on the WATS program. Please note the application process – for SAT, we have a two-step registration, while for ACT and EXPLORE, this process is one step. ACT is new to the one-step process this year!

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 sister Regional Talent Development 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 cbk@centerforbrightkids.org.

Let's recognize our kids for their academic accomplishments and open some additional doors for educational opportunities and scholarship. Please share the program and distribute the application bulletins to counselors, teachers, parents and qualified students as soon as possible. Just give us a call if you need more copies. Thank you so much for your participation – we hope to talk with you soon!

I Just Found Out My Student Qualified for WATS—What Is This Program?

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. Since then, Talent Search has developed into a national program, with over 150,000 students participating annually.

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.

How Do I Know If My Student Is Eligible?

GRADE

Participants must currently be in 3rd-9th grade. Students will be compared to their grade-level peers. If students have skipped grades or are home-schooled, the expectation is that they are already being measured against their grade-level peers in an academic setting. No age-level adjustments are made for students in these situations.

ACADEMIC ABILITY

1) Must score at or above the 95th percentile 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 may be represented as “advanced” criterion on any subtest. Students have used scores from tests such as: ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills), Stanford Achievement Test, WISC-IV, Terra Nova, CogAT, NWEA, or CSAP (Colorado), WYCAS (Wyoming), SBA (New Mexico) or ISAT (Idaho) scores at the “advanced” level or past participants in Talent Search use score reports (which still must be included) from the prior year's SAT, ACT or EXPLORE.

OR

2) A school counselor, licensed teacher, or home school association official (who may not be the student's parent) must provide a letter of recommendation based upon a full year of outstanding performance in a core subject area OR notifying WATS as to the student's qualifying scores instead of submitting a score report (the letter you may have received from school).

Why Would We Do This? Aren't We Testing Kids Too Much Already?

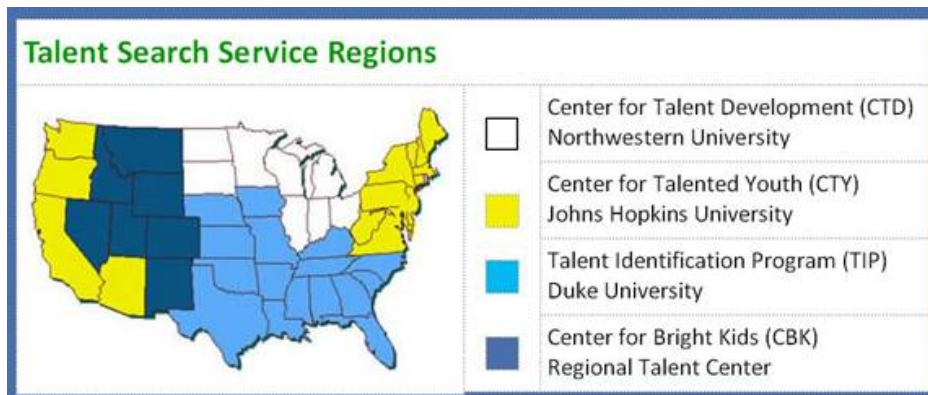
This is a very reasonable concern that many of our new families share, and a very real worry about the current testing craze. However, WATS really isn't, in the end, about the test itself and the score the student receives. It IS about the benefits students receive from participating in this program, and even our most wary families come back after several years of participating grateful for the opportunity their student had to practice these tests without penalty, open doors for new programs and opportunities they wouldn't have otherwise been aware of, and most common in our feedback, families are happy that they have the necessary tools to be heard and have their students be visible in their schooling environments. Yes, we are testing a lot. But at least, hopefully, these scores can mean something real.

Many of our kids are asked to just "float". The assumption is that if they are just given more assignments when they finish early, or they are asked to tutor another student who is struggling with the material, or they are allowed to "do something else" while everyone catches up, that they'll be just "fine". We are interested in more than "fine." We are interested in what's next. What new level could students achieve if they actually were allowed to move ahead? What new level of inquiry might be achieved if students actually were allowed to ask questions that "shouldn't be asked" until the next year in school or next level of curriculum? What new level of skill sets might be accomplished if students were challenged rather than coasting along? The academic talent search is a passport of sorts to beginning these conversations at home. Plus, kids tell us they actually like it when they can go into a testing site and watch those graduating seniors get nervous!

Unfortunately, in today's educational world, we still often need "proof" in the form of a score report to demonstrate that you and your student are ready for these conversations. This is especially critical for those students who may be developing "asynchronously" - that is, their academic achievement is very, very high, while their social skills are challenged daily by their peers. As a nationally recognized program with nationally understood testing rigor, Talent Search provides a means to advocacy in healthy, supported ways for families, a means for accessing courses, programs, schools, or scholarship opportunities that require this "proof", and a means for building the self-confidence and comfort that ultimately are necessary for students to be successful on these tests when they, as our students often state, "take it for real."

So, What Are the Benefits?

- 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 that can make the difference when applying to college. **The more times students participate, the more steady increases in success.**
- During the spring, students receive access to the **Summer Opportunities Guide**, which lists special programs across the country for high ability students.
- With permission, **schools receive information** about talent search results. School officials are better able to accommodate students' course choices or curriculum modifications with this information.
- Scholarship opportunities become available and many **gates are opened and qualification requirements met** for higher level programming, advanced opportunities, scholarships, grade-level adjustments, or schools for gifted. Talent Search is an outstanding **resume-builder**, especially when 150,000 other very bright students are participating (see map below).
- Students are invited to participate in the **CBK Summer Programs**, designed to provide an optimal match and allow students entering 4th-11th grades to develop a socio-emotional network of peers in a living/learning community. Many students age through these programs with lifelong CBK friends.
- 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 grade-level Talent Search participants across the Rocky Mountain region.
- **Young 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, meaning there is **no risk in participating**. The goal is a positive student experience, regardless of the final test score. Why not sign up?



Isn't This Just Another Membership Organization? What's This WATS Fee For?

WATS does not offer memberships. WATS is just one of the programs offered by the Center for Bright Kids Regional Talent Development Center, a non-profit 501(c)3. Your nonrefundable \$43 fee does not pay for membership and does not renew. It covers, for this year, the cost of printing and distributing program materials, mailing costs for SAT secondary registration packets and EXLORE/ACT data files, printing envelopes and paper for the program materials themselves, access to CBK staff for assistance on completing the application, processing registrations, working with the testing companies to coordinate student files transfer and establish testing sites, working with school districts to identify and recruit students, development of the Summer Opportunities Guide, and data processing of all scores, student file information, recognition ceremony qualifying criteria, and Interpretive Guide data collection, aggregation, and assessment. The cost of Recognition Ceremonies or materials is not covered by WATS family fees. So rest assured, while it is important to be vigilant about the many opportunities that are available to your student, you are not “buying your way” into anything by participating in WATS. This is not a school, community, or marketing-driven decision. It is yours and your student’s about whether the program is the right fit for you and your needs. And again, students really do enjoy it!

Why Doesn't My School Know About This? Do I Have to Participate Through School?

Academic talent search is not a school-based program; however, Talent Development Centers work closely with schools and districts to make sure that families are aware of this program and can make an educated choice about whether it is a good fit for them. WATS is bound by FERPA regulations, just as schools are, meaning we cannot share lists of names to send information to you directly. Instead, we rely on a coordinator at your school or in your community who understands the value of Talent Search to identify qualified students, inform them of the program, and get you a letter stating that your student is qualified or provide a score report. Hopefully, you know who this person is in your school or district. However, if you don't have someone helping you out, please let your school know that we are happy to work with them to set up a presentation and brief training for a new coordinator. For families who are struggling more with school cooperation, no school representative is necessary to participate. Participation is a family decision. Many schools work directly with Talent Search to advocate for participation due to school benefits in gaining information about top-achieving students' abilities and how they can be better met with curriculum/programs.

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 in winter weather. Students taking the SAT or ACT will likely test alongside high school students who are testing for college admission. WATS students do not receive a different version of the ACT or SAT. WATS 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 four-hour test with three sections measuring reasoning skills in mathematics, critical reading, and writing. The writing test is now part of recognition ceremony and interpretive guide data and is required. SAT is typically taken in 11th grade and is designed as admission criteria to universities on the Coasts.

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. ACT is typically given in 10th grade and is mandated in many states as a high school completion assessment, while also being used as admission criteria to universities, particularly in the Midwest and West.

EXPLORE **Grades 3-6**
The EXPLORE is a two-hour test written in the same format as the ACT. It is typically given in 8th grade as a career assessment to determine high school coursework.

The Specifics	EXPLORE	ACT	SAT
Grades Included	3-6	6-9	6-9
Testing Dates	Nov 12, Jan 21, Feb 18	Dec 10, Feb 11	Dec 3, Jan 28
Fees	\$75 WATS	\$82 WATS	\$43 WATS; \$49 SAT

Where Can I Take the Test? Can I Take More Than One Test?

Yes, depending on grade level you can take more than one test—you still pay only one WATS fee. Talent Search testing is available in every service region we serve, though not every community. For some tests and in some rural areas, travel may be required to access a test site. [To find the testing site closest to you, go to www.centerforbrightkids.org](http://www.centerforbrightkids.org) or to the company sites:

SAT 866.756.7346 <http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-code-search> (search by test centers—enter code on SAT app)

ACT 319.337.1270 <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/centers.html> (choose state—enter site code on WATS application)

EXPLORE 319.337.1369 <http://www.act.org/explore/ests/centers.html> (choose state—enter site code on WATS application)

I Just Found Out About This—What Are the Deadlines?

2011-2012 Western Academic Talent Search (WATS)

Center for Bright Kids Regional Talent Center

		STEP ONE (WATS)		STEP TWO (FAMILY)	
SAT	Test Date	WATS Receipt Deadline	WATS LATE Receipt Deadline	SAT Company Postmark Deadline	SAT LATE Postmark Deadline
<i>Registration fee: \$43 Paid to CNDC CBK \$49 Paid later to SAT Late registration: \$26</i>	Dec 3	10/18	10/28	11/8	11/20
<i>Date/Site Change: \$25 Standby Testing: \$43</i>	Jan 28	12/2	12/16	12/30	1/13

SINGLE STEP (WATS)			
ACT	Test Date	WATS Receipt Deadline	WATS LATE Receipt Deadline
<i>Registration Fee: \$82 paid to CNDC CBK (\$43 WATS fee + \$39 test fee) Late Registration: \$21 Date/Site Change: \$21 Standby Testing: \$42</i>	Dec 10	10/21	11/4
	Feb 11	12/16	1/6
EXPLORE	Test Date	WATS Receipt Deadline	WATS LATE Receipt Deadline
<i>Registration Fee: \$75 paid to CNDC CBK (\$43 WATS fee + \$32 test fee) Late Registration: \$12 Date/Site Change: \$20 No Standby Testing</i>	Nov 12	10/14	10/25
	Jan 21	12/7	12/16
<i>please note the new early date!</i>	Feb 18	1/6	1/24

Please remember that the **SAT is 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**. Late testing dates are available, but **will not qualify** students for State Recognition Ceremonies (SAT 3/10; ACT 4/14). The **ACT and EXPLORE are a one-step** process with WATS deadlines only.

For example, in order to take the December 3rd SAT, students must submit a **WATS application to CBK** before October 18th. **SAT materials will then be mailed to the family**, who must complete them using the Talent Search codes and then **send SAT materials directly to SAT** before November 8th. CBK cannot be held responsible for postal service delays or delivery errors. CBK makes every effort to process registrations and return secondary SAT packets within 2 weeks. Please plan ahead for December mailing delays. The WATS fee is nonrefundable. All dates except SAT secondary packet are RECEIPT dates.

How Do I Get Signed Up? Are there Deadlines?

- 1) Using the line by line instructions provided to prevent errors (PLEASE READ and REFERENCE this “how to” line by line guide), complete the WATS 2011-2012 Application (**application copies from prior years cannot be accepted**)
- 2) Send your completed application to Center for Bright Kids
 - ⇒ Include a photocopy of proof of eligibility (score report or letter—**past participants need to include WATS score reports**)
 - ⇒ Include **check made payable to CNDC CBK**. (EXPLORE = \$75; SAT = \$43; ACT = \$82.
Credit card payment with a minor surcharge can be accepted on our website—however, you **MUST INCLUDE YOUR PAYPAL RECEIPT now**.)
- 3) Three to five weeks following WATS registration, **if you are taking the SAT, you will receive a packet in the mail to self-register** for this test—**DO NOT DISCARD or IGNORE this packet**. 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 (\$49) fee at this time**. This includes any **SAT late fee**. EXPLORE and ACT candidates will receive both a testing confirmation and admission ticket from Iowa within several weeks of the test itself. No additional registration takes place.

Incomplete or illegible applications will not be processed. WATS is not 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. CBK cannot be held responsible for postal service delays or delivery errors—please keep in mind December delays! 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 cbk@centerforbrightkids.org

Fee Reduction, Waivers, and Special Accommodations

Students who qualify for the free/reduced lunch program at school are eligible for both an ACT fee waiver and WATS reduced fee, available based upon date of registration. *To qualify, documentation of free/reduced lunch program eligibility must accompany the WATS application with a \$30 WATS fee. Only one waiver can be distributed per student. EXPLORE and SAT do not offer test waivers.* For special accommodations, forms must be completed through the testing company and documentation provided for necessary accommodations. This is a lengthy process, so please contact us to start now. WATS does not set up these arrangements.

Final Checklist for Participation

- Talk to your school counselor, G/T coordinator, or teacher about the benefits of participating in the program.
- Talk with your student about participating. It’s natural for him or her to feel nervous.
- Get a score report for eligibility, or if you got a letter telling you about the program from school, use that instead of a score report, provided it says “you qualify.”
- Fill out the 2011-2012 WATS Application using the line by line instructions.
- Staple your eligibility to the application.
- Include a check for the appropriate nonrefundable WATS fee (\$43, \$75, or \$82) made payable to CNDC CBK. **Please include separate checks for more than one student for clarity.**
- If your student is an EXPLORE or ACT candidate, watch the mail several weeks before the test for your test site confirmation letter, admission ticket, and information about the nature of the test. Do not study! But do prepare yourself for what to expect.
- If your student is an SAT candidate, watch the mail in about 3-5 weeks for a large envelope. DO NOT IGNORE the envelope—open it and get everything out of it. Read it all. Use the instructions packet to complete your registration for the SAT test. We provide you codes and instructions—you actually register and provide the testing company with your testing site location code. In the packet, you will find a “Valid Identification” form. You must have this for a young student to access the testing site. Stick it on your fridge. **Send the registration and appropriate SAT fee (usually \$49) in to SAT RIGHT AWAY. DO NOT WAIT!**
- Two to four weeks prior to the test, SAT will send an admission ticket and some information on the nature of the test. Do not study! But do prepare your student for what to expect. How long are the sections? Should you guess? What if you don’t finish?
- The evening before the test, make sure you have your identification and the appropriate materials for the test—do you get to use a calculator? Have your pencils? Make sure your student sleeps the night before. On the morning of the test, eat breakfast. Then, get to the testing site around 7:45am. Bring identification, a family member, and materials. Family members, you then have to leave—see you in 2-4 hours depending on the test. After the test, go out for a big lunch to celebrate. Maybe have some ice cream.
- Don’t worry about the score report. In 5-7 weeks when it comes, if you can, stick it in a drawer until you have the Interpretive Guide. In February, think about registering for CBK Summer Programs. Then, watch your family email in April for the Interpretive Guide, information on the Summer Opportunities Guide, and maybe a Recognition Ceremony invitation.

Application Line by Line Instructions PLEASE READ THESE CAREFULLY TO AVOID ERRORS

- 1) **Student Name**—fill this out last name first, making sure that it is the student’s full name with middle initial, which must match exactly the format your student uses on their testing date answer form. Otherwise, the company will view each application as two separate students.
- 2) **Mailing Address**—please use your current address. If this address changes, please notify WATS immediately so that we are sure to get you correct materials. This address is critical in sending you the SAT secondary registration packets, so please write clearly. Some PO boxes cannot accept large (10x14) envelopes, which is what secondary testing materials are sent in for SAT.
- 3) **Phone Number and Email**—these pieces of info are not shared, but are used for program completion regarding a missing item on the application or a clarity issue with handwriting. Please make sure we can read the phone number and that it is in use. The **email needs to be that of an adult parent/guardian, NOT the student**. We need to get you critical program information like the Interpretive Guide in the spring and Recognition Ceremony information if your student qualifies. As these are attachments, please use a **personal email rather than a work email**, as many work addresses will SPAM large attachments and you will not receive these mailings.
- 4) **Student Identification Information**—you MUST list your student’s gender, birth date, and age. Birth date is a testing company’s primary means of identifying your student and **is a requirement**.
- 5) **Current Grade Level**—for students who skipped grades or are homeschooled, please list the grade level that your student would be placed at in your local school if they were to attend or take the majority of classes at a higher level (as that is then their peer group). Please remember, **students are compared to their grade-level peer group**, so it is important that you record this accurately.
- 6) **Ethnic Description**—this can be an important indicator in the event that we become aware of scholarships for specific populations.
- 7) **Expected Year of Graduation**—please calculate this year (spring), as this determines in what year your records are purged from CBK. WATS scores are archived until high school graduation as a benefit.

8) TEST SELECTION TABLE

A. **Grade**—Make sure your current grade is correct for the test you are choosing. For example, 7th graders cannot take EXPLORE and 5th graders cannot take ACT or SAT.

B. **Test and Date**—Choose the test or tests that your student plans to take, then below that test selection, choose the appropriate testing date you are selecting. In the event that you are testing on one of the WATS late testing dates for ACT or SAT (those available to students but not listed on the table), please fill it in. There are no additional dates for EXPLORE. **Late testing may affect ability to be included in Recognition Ceremonies**. We recommend participating with regular dates.

C. **Site Code**—For **EXPLORE and ACT**, you are completing a one-step registration, so please identify the correct testing site by looking it up through our website or the company sites listed on page 4. Please do not call us for this information—it is very easy to find and is a personal decision. For SAT, you will list your testing site on the secondary registration bubble sheet that comes in the mail following WATS registration. We cannot enter these codes upon WATS registration for SAT testing. Please **check to ensure that the location you choose is offering the test on the date you selected** (not all sites offer testing on every date).

- 9) **WATS Coordinator/School Contact Person**—This is probably the individual who told your son or daughter they qualified to participate or wrote a qualification letter. That individual is often the G/T, TAG, or GATE coordinator at your school or district and works directly with us to identify and register students. If you don’t know who this person is at your school, **ask first**. There may already be someone. Otherwise, you will need to identify the teacher or school personnel person who will be the one receiving your scores if you choose to share that information with the school. You can also recruit this person at your school—if he or she is interested in being a coordinator, we will send materials to that person if listed in this space. **Check the spelling** of that person’s name!
- 10) **School Address**—Please make sure you double-check the mailing address for your school. As this is one of the primary ways we manage our database, it is critical that multiple people at the same location don’t have multiple addresses for your school. **Materials for schools go out by mail**, not email.

You are done with page one—double-check everything before you flip the page over. You are welcome to make photocopies of the application if you do not have an original Bulletin. However, please note there is color stress emphasis in the document to help you navigate. Color Bulletins are available online to consult.

Coordinators, please do not copy applications only for new families. They really need the full Bulletin, and we are happy to send you copies if you give us a call at 303-428-2634.



“I learned how to work with time limits, have more confidence when I take this kind of test, and how to think in depth. I actually wasn’t scared when I took it for real!”

- Past WATS Participant

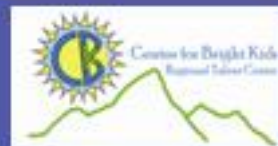


This has been the single most fabulous experience of my son’s life. He felt the coursework was challenging, but appropriate. He loved meeting the kids and the staff. He was so glad to have an opportunity to be “independent” for the first time. I cannot thank you enough for providing this opportunity for my son.

- Summer Programs Family Member

p2 Application Line by Line Instructions PLEASE READ THESE CAREFULLY TO AVOID ERRORS

- 11) **Eligibility**—You must include **ONE OF THE FOLLOWING** stapled to your application:
 - A. A **photocopy of your score report** from a nationally normed, state standardized test (see application for examples) no older than a testing date of December 2009 (**scores written in will not be accepted for qualification to the program**)
 - B. A **letter from your WATS coordinator** that lists your scores on one of the tests from (A) and states that you qualify
 - C. A **photocopy of your WATS scores** from 2010 or 2011—please do not expect us to research these—you must include.
 - D. A recommendation letter from a school counselor, licensed teacher, or home school association official endorsing the student’s participation in the program. This may not be written by a parent.
- 12) **How Did you Hear About WATS?** - Please let us know how you found out about the program. Program awareness really depends on schools and sometimes we need other methods in your area.
- 13) **Additional Information**—
 - A. **Permission to send scores to your school**—This is your decision, NOT the school’s. However, if you choose “NO”, **the school will NOT get information regarding your participation in the test**. In the event that they are recognizing students locally, your student’s name will NOT be included in this release. Your records are protected by FERPA laws. We are not able to release any student, testing, or score information to schools over the phone, in email, or through the mail unless we have permission directly from the family.
 - B. **Permission to release for educational opportunity mailings**—We are occasionally contacted by educational organizations to help them identify students who would qualify for specific programs, schools, or scholarships. This contact would only come by mail and does not oblige you to participate in these opportunities. We carefully screen any organization applying for this information.
 - C. **Income Information**—Although this section is optional, it can really provide us with additional search information in the event that scholarships become available that target certain demographics of the gifted population.
- 14) **Family Contact Information**—Please provide the name or names of parent(s) or legal guardians in the event that we have questions about your application. We need to be able to read these names—do NOT provide a signature here.
- 15) **Certification**—NOW you sign. This is for the **parent/guardian** and must be completed in order for a student, who is a minor, to participate. While it is exciting that your kid might want to sneak off and take the ACT, we’d rather you are able to cheer for him or her once test day arrives.
- 16) **Fees**—Make out your check to **CNDC CBK**. If you are taking the ACT, send \$82. If you are taking the SAT, send \$43. If you are taking both, send \$82. If you are taking EXPLORE, send \$75. If you are taking EXP+SAT, send \$75; EXP+ACT, send \$114..
If applying during a WATS late window, do NOT send SAT late fees to WATS; do send EXPLORE and ACT late fees to WATS. Credit card payment with a minor surcharge can be accepted on our website—however, you **MUST INCLUDE YOUR PAYPAL RECEIPT now**.
- 17) **MAIL**—WATS Application (two sides) with Eligibility stapled to the back. Include the appropriate check. Put your student’s name on the memo line, along with which test the student is taking. Please write separate checks for multiple students. Mail these three things to WATS.
- 18) **WAIT, then register for SAT or ACT or receive your confirmation from EXPLORE**—
For EXPLORE, you will not receive a confirmation until closer to the test date. EXPLORE will send you a confirmation and an admission ticket and some general testing information directly from Iowa. They will also confirm your testing location. If there is a problem with either your testing date or site, CALL EXPLORE at 319-337-1369. WATS cannot make these changes.
For ACT, you will not receive a confirmation until closer to the test date. ACT will send you a confirmation and an admission ticket and some general testing information directly from Iowa. They will also confirm your testing location. If there is a problem with either your testing date or site, CALL ACT at 319-337-1270. WATS cannot make these changes.
For SAT, you will receive an SAT registration packet in the mail from Denver about 3-5 weeks after registering with WATS. Please plan for this time lapse! Please note December mailing times lag considerably! Please register early so you are not stuck with late fees! When you receive this packet, which will be in a large CBK envelope, open it. Read through everything. **Follow the instructions provided to register yourself** using WATS codes and information for the test itself. If you do not complete this step, you will not be allowed to test. Now, you pay your \$49 SAT fee. You also will enter your testing site, which you probably already looked up online at our website or on the SAT site listed on page 4. You must return this packet to SAT prior to their deadlines as listed on the chart on page 5. Otherwise, you will pay a late fee to SAT in addition to your registration fee. In extreme time crunches, standby testing is available, but is expensive.
- 19) **Receive your admission ticket**—for all three companies, admission tickets go out within 2-4 weeks of testing. **If you did not get a ticket, you did not get registered properly. Please do not wait to call until the night before, as we will be unable to help.**
- 20) **TEST**—Take your WATS Valid Identification Form with you for ACT/SAT that was in your packet. Good luck—5-7 weeks after the test, you will receive your national score report. Do not fret over these scores. In April, we will send you the 2011-2012 WATS Interpretive Guide to help you understand how you did. **We have to wait for all scores to come in before we can release this information for this academic year, which doesn’t happen until late March. Recognition Ceremony qualification also is not determined until early April. We will not have this information prior to April.**



Center for Bright Kids Regional Talent Center Western Academic Talent Search

2011-2012 Application

Incomplete applications or those that cannot be read due to clarity will not be processed.

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

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

Be sure to include the correct fee (\$43 SAT, \$82 ACT, or \$75 EXP) made payable to CNDC CBK

with this application to Center for Bright Kids, 9975 Wadsworth Pkwy, K2#504, Westminster, CO 80021.

Credit card payment with a minor surcharge can be accepted on our website—you **MUST INCLUDE YOUR PAYPAL RECEIPT** now.

1) Student Name

Last
First
MI
(When you complete your score sheet at testing, please make sure this is exactly how you list your name so that files can be matched)

2) Mailing Address

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3) (Area Code) Phone Number _____ Parent/Guardian E-mail Address (we must have this for you to receive the Interpretive Guide or info on Recognition Ceremonies – this is never shared) _____

4) Student Identification Information **M** **F**
 Gender (circle) Birthdate (M/D/Y) Age _____

5) Current Grade Level: 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

6) Ethnic Description 7) Expected Year of High School Graduation _____
 Black/African American White/Caucasian Hispanic/Latino American
 Indian/Native American Asian/Pacific Islander Other

8) Test Selection Table

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	Nov 12 <input type="checkbox"/>	Dec 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Dec 10 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Jan 21 <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 18 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 28 <input type="checkbox"/>	Feb 11 <input type="checkbox"/>
Site Code/ Late Testing Date	EXP Test Site Code _____	Late Test Date _____	ACT Test Site Code _____

9) WATS Coordinator/School Contact Person (who told you about or referred you to the program)

Last
First
Position

10) School Address or Home School Association (do not complete if homeschooling without association)

Name of School
Public
Private
Home School

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PLEASE COMPLETE OTHER SIDE ->

Center for Bright Kids Regional Talent Development Center • Western Academic Talent Search
 9975 Wadsworth Pkwy, K2 #504, Westminster, CO 80021 • 303.428-2534 • 303.428-2538 (fax) • cbl@centerforbrightkids.org

PLEASE CUT OUT PAGE TO REMOVE AND SEND—USE LINE BY LINE INSTRUCTIONS TO AVOID ERRORS.

11) Eligibility – ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

Student has scored at or above the 95th 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" in any subtest.

Contact your school for test scores OR you may use 2009-2011 WATS scores to qualify.

You must include a photocopy of your score report with this application (including past participants).

OR

Scores may be no older than a testing date of December of 2009.

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. A qualifying notification letter may be substituted for a score report.

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

12) How Did You Hear About WATS?

School Past Participant CBK Website CBK Programs Mailing Other _____

13) Additional Information

- 1) Do you give permission for CBK to release your child's SAT/ACT/EXPLORE test scores to the school upon request from 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) Information Regarding Income Student is in free/reduced lunch program
(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+

14) Family Contact Information

Parent/Guardian Name

Day Phone Number

Work/Cell Number

15) 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** \$43 application fee for processing and the additional benefits of this participation.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

16) Required Fees – (WATS fees are nonrefundable)

If you are taking **SAT**: Include check made payable to **CNDC CBK for \$43 now**. You will send SAT fee later to SAT.

Late fees for SAT go directly to SAT with your SAT payment upon registration with the company (\$49 later).

If you are taking **ACT**: Include check made payable to **CNDC CBK for \$82**. You will receive no second packet.

ACT will notify you of registration receipt upon sending admission tickets, which go out closer to testing. If necessary, **ACT late fees are paid to CNDC CBK** at the same time as \$82 fee.

If you are taking **EXPLORE**: Include check made payable to **CNDC CBK for \$75**. You will receive no second packet.

EXPLORE will notify you of registration receipt upon sending admission tickets, which go out closer to testing. If necessary, **EXPLORE late fees are paid to CNDC CBK** at the same time as \$75 fee.

No matter how many tests you take, you pay one \$43 WATS fee. EXPLORE/ACT fees are paid with WATS registration.

Credit card payment with a minor surcharge can be accepted on our website—you **MUST INCLUDE YOUR PAYPAL RECEIPT now**.

17) Mail Today – make sure to use the correct postage!

18) Secondary Registration for SAT

Three to five weeks following WATS registration, if you are taking the 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 (\$49) fees to those companies at that time. This includes any SAT late fee.

Summer Programs 2012

Summer Programs are held on the campus of



nestled in the Rocky Mountain foothills in Golden, Colorado. All programs are fully residential experiences offering students the opportunity to be intellectually challenged by top faculty while living in a community of bright peers. Full recreational and weekend programs are included.

While our programs are held at the Colorado School of Mines, they are not all math and science courses. CBK strives to offer a selection of courses across the curriculum and runs those courses based upon student interest.



Center for Bright Kids
Regional Talent Center

serving families across the country from Denver, Colorado, since 1982

CBK SHINE

(Students Headed Into New Enrichment)

Students take one enrichment course of interest, with a full residential program to support social and emotional growth

- grades 4-6 in fall, 2012
- one week: July 29-Aug 4, 2012
- students from across United States, especially in CBK seven-state region and bordering states



CBK GLOW

(Gaining Leadership, Obtaining Wisdom)

A transitional program between SHINE and Luminary, students take one accelerated enrichment course of interest, with a full residential program to support social and emotional growth

- grades 6-8 in fall, 2012
- two weeks: June 10-23, 2012
- students from across United States



The CBK Luminary Project

An intensive acceleration program, students take one course of interest with potential for equivalency credit, with a full residential program to support social and emotional growth

- Mature 8th graders—11th grade not older than 17 in fall, 2012
- three weeks: July 1-21, 2012
- students from across United States with some international students



Summer Programs Catalogue
available at the end of February
Email your address or give us a call in
order to receive a copy!
(WATS students automatically receive the Catalogue)

Center for Bright Kids Regional Talent Center

9975 Wadsworth Pkwy, K2#504, Westminster, CO 80021
303-428-2634

cbk@centerforbrightkids.org
www.centerforbrightkids.org



a bright spot for bright kids



A Project of the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center

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

Nonprofit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1675
Denver, CO

A bright spot for bright kids...

Check out our website at www.centerforbrightkids.org!

Both the WATS Application and online payment are available on the WATS link.

Once online payment is finalized, you can fax in your application and receipt to 303-428-2638.
or email a scanned copy to cbk@centerforbrightkids.org. You MUST include a PayPal receipt upon registration!

Also, you can check out CBK Summer Programs, open to students across the country and internationally!

9975 Wadsworth Pkwy, K2#504 • Westminster, CO 80021 • 303.428.2634 • cbk@centerforbrightkids.org •
www.centerforbrightkids.org