



# 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 Once Again to Participate in the Western Academic Talent Search (WATS)!

Welcome to the 30<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> 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 welcome you back and look forward to your support and participation in this year's academic talent search. This abbreviated Bulletin provides you with the instructions and application only. If you're feeling rusty, please check the full Bulletin on our website at [www.centerforbrightkids.org](http://www.centerforbrightkids.org) for more detail. Please note the application process, which has shifted this year – ONLY SAT is a two-step registration, while for EXPLORE and ACT, 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 sister Regional Talent Development Centers. We need our current families' help to spread the word about the benefits of this national program, and, as always, please 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](mailto: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 Already Participated Once— 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.
- 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?

### 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**)

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

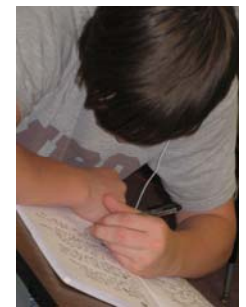
- 1) **Student Name**—fill this out last name first, making sure that it is the student’s full name with middle initial, which must match exactly the format your student uses on their testing date answer form. Otherwise, the company will view each application as two separate students.
- 2) **Mailing 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

- Black/African American  
 Indian/Native American

- White/Caucasian  
 Asian/Pacific Islander

- Hispanic/Latino American  
 Other

### 7) Expected Year of High School Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

### 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		ACT
Date	Nov 12 <input type="checkbox"/>		Dec 10 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Jan 21 <input type="checkbox"/>	Feb 18 <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 • 303.428-2634 • 303.428-2638 (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 95<sup>th</sup> 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

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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.

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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 late fee).

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 close 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.**

**What Are the Deadlines? Don't They Come Up Really Fast?**

## 2011-2012 Western Academic Talent Search (WATS)

### *Center for Bright Kids Regional Talent Center*

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

ACT	Test Date	SINGLE STEP (WATS)	
		WATS Receipt Deadline	WATS LATE Receipt Deadline
<i>Registration Fee: \$82 paid to CNDC CBK (\$43 WATS fee + \$39 test fee)</i> <i>Late Registration: \$21</i> <i>Date/Site Change: \$21</i> <i>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)</i> <i>Late Registration: \$12</i> <i>Date/Site Change: \$20</i> <i>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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:cbk@centerforbrightkids.org) •  
[www.centerforbrightkids.org](http://www.centerforbrightkids.org)