

Dear Parents:

Students in grades 5 and 7 will be administered the IOWA Assessment during the week of October 12-15, 2021. Testing time will be from 8:00 am-11:00 am. **If you would like for your students to take part in testing, please visit FSE's homepage and click on the CogAT/ITBS link to register your child.** The sign-up window will open September 22, 2021 and will close on September 29, 2021. These tests will be administered face-to-face for all students. Below is some information about the assessment and how you can help your child prepare.

**IOWA Assessments** for grades 5 and 7 are large-scale achievement tests that assess students' skills in reading, language, and mathematics. The tests assess both foundation skills and higher order thinking skills. Testing with the Iowa Assessments can provide information that can be used to improve instruction and student learning.

The Iowa Assessment scores are used for a variety of educational purposes. Some of the primary uses are listed below:

- **To identify strengths and weaknesses in student performance** – Make relative comparisons of student performance from one content area to another.
- **To inform instruction** – Make decisions about past and future instructional strategies.
- **To measure performance in terms of core standards** – Determine the degree to which students have acquired the essential skills and concepts of core standards.
- **To implement Response to Intervention (RTI)** – Identify students at risk for poor learning outcomes who may benefit from intensive, systematic learning interventions.
- **To inform placement decisions** – Place students into programs; assign students to different levels of a learning program. For example, the IOWA scores help identify academically gifted students.
- **To evaluate programs** – Provide information that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of curricular changes.

**There are several ways you can help your student prepare for these assessments.**

You can help your student do his or her best by considering these tips:

- Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.
- Remind your student that these tests are only **one** measure of what he or she has learned. Emphasize that you have confidence in his or her ability to do the best job possible.
- Remind your student to listen to the directions and read each question carefully during testing. Encourage your student to ask the teacher for help if he or she does not understand the directions.

We ask on test day, that you ensure the following:

- Student testing device is fully charged;
- Student brings charger to school;
- Student brings **headphones/ear buds**; and
- Your student wears a mask. A mask will be provided if your child does not have one.

Thank you very much for encouraging and supporting your student during testing. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Assistant Principal Shaun Johnson [sjohnson1@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:sjohnson1@rockdale.k12.ga.us) or at 770-483-5136.

Sincerely,

*Shaun Johnson*

Assistant Principal

Flat Shoal Elementary School