**What is out-of-level testing?**

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

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

**EXPLORE test (grades 4-6)**
A two-hour test is designed for 8th graders and measures academic development in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning.

**ACT Assessment (grades 7-9)**
A three-hour test designed for college-bound high school students that measures academic development in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning.

**SAT I Assessment (grades 7-9)**
A three-hour test designed for college-bound high school students that measures reasoning rather than specific high school curriculum.

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

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

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

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

For further information, or to register, contact:
Belin-Blank Center
The University of Iowa
210 Lindquist Center, Iowa City, IA   52242
1-800-336-6463
www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr
Students today have access to a wide variety of educational opportunities in the summer months. The following list is intended to assist parents in locating enriching summer activities for high-ability students. Please contact the organizations listed for completed and up-to-date information.

### Local Day Camps

- **Living History Farms**  
  Programs for students Grade 1-7  
  [www.lhf.org](http://www.lhf.org), 278-5286

- **Des Moines Playhouse**  
  Multiple programs for students Gr K-12  
  [www.dmplayhouse.com](http://www.dmplayhouse.com), 255-3741 ext. 209

- **Science Center of Iowa**  
  Multiple options for students  
  274-4138 ext. 222

- **Camp Shalom**  
  Celebrating life, building confidence  
  277-5566

- **Blank Park Zoo**  
  Various programs available for students  
  285-4722

- **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**  
  American Girl Camp  
  [www.gloriadeionline.com](http://www.gloriadeionline.com)

- **Des Moines Public Schools**  
  Outdoor Adventure Camp for G/T students  
  242-7733

- **Des Moines Art Center**  
  Programs for ages 3-17  
  [www.desmoinesartcenter.com](http://www.desmoinesartcenter.com), 271-0306

- **Camp Fire USA**  
  Various camp options for Gr 1-9  
  [CampFireDM@aol.com](mailto:CampFireDM@aol.com), 272-1501

### Local Summer School Programs

- **Des Moines Public School**  
  Gifted and Talented Summer Program, Gr 1-9, 242-7930 (G/T Office)

- **Johnston Community Schools**  
  Community Education Programs for Gr 1-12, 278-0552

- **West Des Moines Public Schools**  
  Summer Enrichment Adventures  
  226-2818

- **Beli/Blank Center**  
  Summer classes for qualified students  
  [www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr/programs](http://www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr/programs), 1-800-336-6463

- **Drake University**  
  Summer Foreign Language for the Young, 271-1927

- **Drake University Community School of Music**  
  Private instrumental and voice instruction  
  [www.drake.edu/summer](http://www.drake.edu/summer), 271-4011

### In-State Residential Programs

- **Iowa State University**  
  A variety of summer courses  
  Office of Precollegiate Programs for Talented and Gifted (OPPTAG)  
  [www.opptag@iastate.edu](mailto:www.opptag@iastate.edu), (515) 294-1772

- **University of Iowa**  
  Science and humanities summer program  
  (319) 335-0040

- **Univ of Iowa**  
  Summer courses for qualified students  
  [www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr/programs](http://www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr/programs), 1-800-336-6463

### Out-of-State Programs

- **Carleton College (Northfield, MN)**  
  Summer writing and science programs  
  [www.carleton.edu/campus/sap](http://www.carleton.edu/campus/sap), (507) 646-4038

- **Delphian School (Sheridan, OR)**  
  Math, science, and study skills programs  
  [www.delphian.org](http://www.delphian.org), 1-800-626-6610

- **U.S. Space & Aviation Challenge (AL and FL)**  
  Space camp  
  1-800-63-SPACE, [ww.spacecamp.com](http://ww.spacecamp.com)

- **Creighton University (Omaha, NE)**  
  Ad Astra  
  1-800-637-4279, [www.creighton.edu/summersessions](http://www.creighton.edu/summersessions)

- **Concordia College (Moorhead, MN)**  
  Concordia Language Village  
  1-800-222-4750, [www.concordialanguagevillages.com](http://www.concordialanguagevillages.com)

- **Univ. of Illinois (Champaign, IL)**  
  Engineering studies  
  [www.engr.uiuc.edu](http://www.engr.uiuc.edu), WYSE1 800-843-5410

- **Northwestern Univ. (Evanston, IL)**  
  Summer for Talent Development  
  [www.ctd.northwestern.edu/programs](http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/programs)

- **Univ. Of Northern Colorado (Greeley, Colorado)**  
  Summer Enrichment Program  
  [www.unco.edu/sep](http://www.unco.edu/sep)