

Gifted & Talented (G&T) *Frequently Asked Questions – Score Correction*

Families recently received score reports for the assessments used to determine Gifted & Talented (G&T) eligibility. Pearson, the vendor responsible for the G&T assessments, made an error in calculating students' results. Due to the company's error, some students' actual percentile rank is higher than the percentile rank they received on their score reports last week.

All students who previously qualified for G&T still qualify. Some students who were previously told they didn't qualify for district programs now do; other students who were previously told they didn't qualify for citywide programs now do.

The error impacted the qualification status of 4,735 test takers, or 13.2% of test takers. Of these:

- 2,698 students (7.5% of test takers) who didn't previously qualify for G&T now qualify for district programs;
- 2,037 students (5.7% of test takers) who previously qualified for district programs now also qualify for citywide programs.

Based on the updated results, more students are qualifying for G&T compared to last year.

- Last year, 9,644 students qualified for G&T. This year, that number is up to 11,815 (compared to 9,020 previously reported).
- Last year, 4,102 students qualified for citywide programs. This year, that number is up to 5,369 (compared to 3,335 previously reported).
- Last year, 2,144 students scored at the 99th percentile. This year, that number is up to 2,564 (compared to 1,363 previously reported).

In the next 24 hours, families will receive an update from the DOE, including information about whether their child's eligibility was impacted by the error. Families will receive updated score reports by April 29. Families will also receive a letter of apology from Pearson. To give families time to reconsider application decisions, the deadline for submitting applications will be extended to **May 10**.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What happened?**

Eligibility for the G&T programs is determined by students' overall percentile rank based on two assessments. Pearson made mathematical errors in calculating students' results. This resulted in some students receiving letters with lower overall percentile ranks than they actually earned.

- **What specifically were the errors?**

During the scoring process, Pearson made three errors. First, an error occurred in the assignment of students' age. Specifically, the assignment accounted for years and months, but did not extend to days. When days are accounted for, some students are categorized in a different age band. Second, incorrect score conversion tables were applied in producing the scale scores for the NNAT2 and OLSAT-8. Third, the mathematical formula used in combining NNAT2 and OLSAT8 scores to create the overall percentile contained an error.

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- **Who is responsible? What is the quality assurance process?**

Pearson, the vendor responsible for the G&T assessments, made this error. The company's scoring process includes extensive quality assurance reviews. In this case, even though the data underwent a quality assurance process, the miscalculation was not caught.

- **Shouldn't the DOE have caught these errors?**

The DOE's Office of Assessment is responsible for reviewing and approving Pearson's methodology for calculating assessment results. Pearson documented the scoring process correctly in its technical materials, which were approved by the DOE. These errors were in the detailed assessment score data which is calculated by the vendor. The vendor is required to conduct quality assurance procedures, but did not identify the error.

- **How is Pearson correcting the error? Should families have confidence that the new information is correct?**

Pearson is correcting the error by recalculating students' scores. To ensure the accuracy of their calculations, the DOE has required that Pearson conduct additional quality assurance checks and confirm that the results are correct. The DOE has also calculated the results to confirm that Pearson's results are accurate. Families should have confidence that the new information is correct.

- **What are the implications for families and the enrollment process? Do families have to fill out new applications?**

In the next 24 hours, families will receive an update from the DOE, including information about whether their child's score was impacted by the error. To give all families time to reconsider application decisions, the deadline for submitting applications will be extended to May 10.

- Families whose children are now eligible to apply for G&T programs must submit a completed application with their ranked choices by Friday, May 10.
- Families whose eligibility did not change can also submit new applications by May 10, but do not need to if their choices remain the same.

We anticipate that families will begin to receive their G&T offers the week of June 17. Families will be able to pre-register their child for G&T programs before the end of the school year.