

2023 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT STUDY: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. When I click on the “Parent Portal” the page that is linked only describes the ordering of BJU textbook materials. Is this the correct link?

A. Yes. When you set up your BJU account on that page (using CHEO’s portal link) it will take you to the selection of grade levels for your assessment order.

Q. The page for purchasing our tests also has an option that includes the CogAT 7. Is this test a part of the study?

A. Please do not order the CogAT 7 for the purpose of this study. The choice you should make is either the “Online Iowa Assessment Form E” OR the “Iowa Assessment Form E” (which is the paper/pencil version).

Q. We would prefer to order the online assessment, but it wasn’t available. What should we do?

A. There are limitations to the number of students who can schedule online assessments. This process requires BJU staffing. Since this assessment project is being rolled out in more than 30 states, there will be a point that BJU’s staff capacity is maxed out.

If you are not able to purchase the online assessment, please consider using the paper / pencil option. You should still order your assessments now. Your assessor packet with instructions and test materials will be shipped to you approximately 10 days in advance of the date you select to administer the test. With the high volume of assessments needed for this project, ordering now will help ensure there will be no supply chain delays for production and delivery of the appropriate assessments later this spring or early summer.

Q. Where can I find materials that would be helpful to prepare my students to take a norm-referenced assessment?

A. You can browse products on the market at amazon.com. Even if you don’t purchase a product using amazon.com you can see a selection of titles and some of the products allow you to click on them to see pages inside the workbook. A reliable and inexpensive brand is Spectrum.

If your children have never taken a standardized norm-referenced assessment, it will be to their benefit to practice with these types of workbooks. Then when they are taking the actual assessment it is not a brand new experience.

Q. How much assistance would I be allowed to give my first grader with the online option?

A. The online version of the ITBS for grades K and 1 will have a female voice providing audio prompts. You may assist if there are technical issues with the computer but should not provide guidance in selecting answers to the questions.

For these younger students taking the paper / pencil version there are clear instructions for providing the verbal prompts in the testing material you will receive as the test administrator. If you need further clarification please contact BJU Press Testing with any questions. (800.845.5731 - ask for the testing department)

Q. I am very interested in having my children take this and contribute to the study! We've always only done assessment portfolios. Does anyone know if the results could also be used in place of our assessments?

A. You can definitely use the results of the ITBS Form E for your annual assessment report. The results (diagnostic profile) that will be sent directly to you will include a composite score. Make a photocopy of that profile and circle the composite score. Use this to submit as your assessment report.

Note: You are permitted to redact (black out) any information on your photocopy that you don't want to include in the assessment report. The only required data point is the composite score. Another option would be to keep the diagnostic profile results for your own records and continue to use the portfolio option to submit with your home education notification.

Q. Am I understanding correctly that if my student did the paper / pencil option, I would need to find an approved person to administer the test?

A. No. You would not need to find someone else to administer the test. You may choose to apply to BJU to be the test administrator for your own student(s). There is a requirement of the test publisher that you would need (at a minimum) to have a high school degree (diploma). When you order your assessments there is a place in the ordering process that you can click to accomplish the test administration application.

Q. Is the test being used a timed test?

A. Yes...but accommodations are available for students with diagnosed disabilities.

Q. What ages / grades can be assessed using the ITBS Form E?

A. Grades K - 12

Q. Would it be better to just stick with kids who already know how to take standardized tests so it doesn't reflect poorly on the group as a whole?

A. We are not worried about a child testing poorly as reflecting poorly on the group. We're interested in a large population of students testing to obtain the best overall accurate and reliable results.

Q. Are the questions on Form E structured with an assumption that the students are educated in accordance with the scope and sequence of state standards?

A. No. Most states use criterion-referenced assessments that are aligned to a specific and more limited set of knowledge/skills. The ITBS has been used since 1935 to generally compare the progress of children against a national normative sampling of the same age and/or grade level.