

Achievement Testing FAQs (2018)

What is the Iowa test? The Iowa Test of Basic Skills as another type of standardized test, similar to the traditional Stanford Achievement Test. The student experience is nearly the same, except Iowa is shorter. *All parts of the Iowa test are strictly timed.* The score reports are a little different, and SMICA will offer a small meeting next summer on interpreting the score reports for those who wish for more info.

Why do we have to test? Section 3.5 of SMICA Policy Manual: If a diploma from SMIC Academy is to be a meaningful document, we must ensure that our graduates have at least mastered the rudiments of education. Standardized testing is an imperfect measure of a student's ability, but it is the best means we now have for tracking progress.

Does my high schooler have to test? The college-readiness tests, such as the ACT, SAT, PSAT, PSAT 8/9, and Pre-ACT, do *not* satisfy the SMICA testing requirement. However, if you would like to opt-out of achievement testing for your 9th or 10th grader, please ask for the *High School Testing Waiver*.

Do I have to test with SMICA? What are my options? SMICA offers group testing for many reasons, including socializing with SMICA classmates and receiving percentile scores (norms) within AACS (Christian schools), as well as the nation.

You may also test with any other testing group (Stanford-10 at CC \$55, Evangel \$75, etc.). However, these tests will only have national norms. You may also test at home with an older edition test using old norms (online or paper versions). See *section 5.5 of the SMICA Policy Manual: At Home Testing*.

Do I have to test every year? May I test every year? We offer tests for 3rd-10th grades. SMICA requires achievement testing of your students in 4th grade and up, every other year through 9th or 10th grade. Some families test in grades 3,5,7,9 or 4,6,8,10. You may test every year. You may test all or some of your children, assuming you are meeting the "every other year" requirement for each child.

What is the CogAT? The Cognitive Abilities Test "measures learned reasoning abilities that are most directly related to academic success in school." It is not an IQ test. SMICA administers the CogAT only to our 4th and 5th graders. *Practice is strongly recommended* for this test, and it can be found at <https://www.tests.com/practice/COGAT-Practice-Test>