

January, 2009

Dear Iowa School Administrator:

The *Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test* (IAAT) is again being offered to the schools of Iowa by the Iowa Testing Programs as a part of its services in the 2008-2009 school year. A brief description of the IAAT is enclosed. Last year, more than 15,000 Iowa students took the IAAT. The purpose of this letter is to remind you of the availability of this test, invite you to participate in this testing program, and to provide information for ordering this test.

As is true of the ITBS and ITED, we will provide the IAAT as a service to the schools of Iowa. The only charges incurred by schools will be for the actual prices of the materials and scoring. We must note that we have a very different agreement with our publisher regarding IAAT than we have for ITBS and ITED. For the ITBS and ITED, we are able to purchase all materials from the publisher at cost. We are not given this privilege with the IAAT. Thus the price per test booklet may seem relatively high. However, this is tempered somewhat by several factors. First, users of IAAT will purchase the test booklets, not rent them, as they do with ITBS and ITED booklets. IAAT booklets will not be returned to Iowa City after testing is completed. So if the booklets are well maintained, they can be reused by a number of groups of students. Testing coordinators are encouraged to check the used test booklets to make sure students have not marked in them. Also, it may not be necessary to purchase a separate booklet for each student to be tested. Because these tests will most likely be administered in math classes, you need only have enough booklets to accommodate the class period in which the greatest number of students are in math classes. After the first year of participation, the only cost will be for the answer sheets and scoring. At \$0.25 per student, this is a nominal fee. For those of you who have been using IAAT, please see the attached memorandum regarding test booklets and marking answer sheets.

As you can see from the list of materials to be ordered, in addition to test booklets and answer sheets, a school will need to order at least one copy of the *Manual for Test Use, Interpretation, and Technical Support* and one or several copies of the *Directions for Administration*. The number of copies of the *Directions* will be dictated by the maximum number of separate classes to be tested simultaneously. As mentioned above, after the first year, you will not need to purchase additional copies of either manual. If your school participated in the program last year, you need only order the materials needed to complete the testing in the upcoming year. If you ordered enough extra answer sheets last year to accommodate this year's testing, you need only administer the test and return the completed answer sheets to our office in Iowa City. No fees will be incurred as you have already paid the cost for the answer sheets, which includes the price for scoring.

We are again requesting that you return your answer sheets to Iowa City to be scored. Under most circumstances, we are able to provide results within four to ten days. These results will consist of a list report of the students who took the test with their scores and associated national and local percentile ranks. Also provided is a list report that is rank ordered according to the local PR values for each grade group tested. We also provide a report containing frequency distributions of your school's composite scores. As is true for ITBS and ITED, in return for providing you the IAAT at cost, we ask that we be able to keep the test scores on file for research purposes.

We do hope you will consider participating in this program. We believe you will find it to be a very efficient means to gather additional data to assist in making the difficult and important decision regarding student placement in the secondary mathematics program. Please share this information with the school personnel in your district who are involved in these placement decisions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy N. Ansley

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