

**ONTARIO PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Practice Guidelines regarding Psychological Assessments and Reports**  
**Written for Clients referred for Gifted Identification**

The following recommendations represent practice guidelines for psychologists and psychological associates regarding psychological assessments and reports written for clients who are being considered for identification as intellectually gifted.

**Recommendation #1**

A psychological assessment that has been conducted to evaluate a client's intellectual potential and appropriateness for identification as intellectually gifted shall include the following elements:

- background information, including the information obtained through interviews with parents and teachers
- observations of behaviour including aspects such as problem solving, creativity, task commitment, etc.
- comprehensive assessment of cognitive functioning
- assessment of academic functioning
- evaluation of social/emotional functioning
- consideration of any factors which may have impact on the results, such as testing conditions, physical disabilities, cultural issues, second language, etc.

**Recommendation #2**

The report of the psychological assessment should incorporate and address all of the above areas and should include:

- a comprehensive interpretation of assessment results, resulting in a profile of the client's learning strengths and needs
- suggestions for effective modifications (e.g., the need for expanded opportunities and/or a differentiated curriculum) and any accommodations (e.g., access to a computer) required based on the psychological profile

The psychological assessment report shall be communicated in a manner that can be clearly understood. It should indicate the sources of information used and the appropriate level of confidence for the information obtained.

**Recommendation #3**

Institutions shall be encouraged to accept psychological assessment reports from other institutions or private practitioners about a client, when that information meets the acceptable standards of content and quality.

**Recommendation #4**

The results of a psychological assessment or a written psychological report shall only be shared with a third party with the consent of the assessed client (or parent/guardian, where appropriate).

**Recommendation #5**

Frequent re-assessments should be avoided, as should decision-making based on information clearly out of date. Re-assessments should be done only when the most recent psychological assessment results no longer reflect the client's functioning.