

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Frequent re-assessments should be avoided, as should decision-making based on information clearly out of date.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.