



December 10, 2002

Richard O'Connell, Ed.D.
Superintendent

To the Parents of:
Michael Dooley
10255 Dunsford Drive
Littleton, CO 80124

Dear Parent(s) of Michael Dooley,

Your child, Michael, recently completed the **Test of Cognitive Skills (TCS)** with a score of **135**. The TCS is an assessment developed and published by CTB McGraw-Hill that measures a student's ability to learn in school. Although similar to an intelligence test, there are differences. The TCS assesses the degree to which a student possesses the mental skills to be successful in school.

Students' mental abilities are assessed in four areas on the TCS: sequences, analogies, memory and verbal reasoning. On the sequences and analogies subtests students are asked to find patterns, similarities, and relationships between letters, figures, and numbers. The memory section tests how well students can recall previously presented pictures and nonsense words. The verbal reasoning portion of the assessment analyzes students' ability to understand relationships and patterns among words and concepts.

The number of problems your child gets correct on each section of the test is converted to a scale score and then averaged for the "Total Test." The scale score for the *Total Test* is then converted to a *Cognitive Skills Index (C.S.I.)*. The C.S.I. is a "comparison score" that allows you to see how your child scored compared to other students of the same age. The C.S.I. is constructed so that the average score is 100 and two-thirds of all students have scores that fall between 85 and 115. A score between 100 and 115 would be considered average. Most gifted students score in the 130 range. A score higher than 140 is exceptional, with only about 1 percent of all students scoring above 140.

As noted in the Discovery application, a student must demonstrate a very high level of intellectual ability (130 range) on the Test of Cognitive Skills provided by the District before he/she will receive further consideration for admission. If your child's score is not within this range and you feel your child's abilities are not adequately reflected, you may wish to pursue having a private psychologist administer a WISC III (Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 3rd Edition) IQ test. Please note that this testing would be at the parents' expense.

If you choose to seek private testing, copies of the new test results must be submitted to this office by **January 15, 2003**, if this testing reflects a score within the acceptable range and clearly contradicts the original TCS score.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Thurman".

Kathy Thurman
Coordinator, Gifted and Talented Education