

**SEARCH Program FAQs**  
By SEARCH Chairperson Maryann Daly

**Q: What is the criterion used for entrance into the SEARCH Program in Grade 4?**

**A:** Criterion used for entrance into the program are the results of the grade 4 OLSAT and the results of the grade 3 New York State ELA and Mathematics tests (total scaled score). Additionally, the student's Third and Fourth Grade teachers complete rating scales based on learning characteristics, motivation and creativity.

**Q: What is the OLSAT?**

**A.** The Otis Lennon School Abilities Test measures the cognitive abilities that relate to a student's ability to learn in school. The OLSAT is a forty minute group test, comprised of 72 questions, administered in the classroom in October of grade four. This test includes problems involving inferencing, comparing and contrasting, analogies, logic and spatial relationships. The OLSAT is scheduled for **Thursday, October 2nd**.

**Q. What if my child is absent for this test?**

**A.** A makeup test will be offered to all students who were absent.

**Q. Will I be able to submit outside testing (individual IQ test) instead of the OLSAT score?**

**A.** Only the OLSAT score will be used. The OLSAT is a group ability index, which indicates how a child performs compared to other children his or her age.

**Q. Why can't the report card be used as part of the criterion?**

**A.** Using a standard and scaled score provides an objective and consistent measurement of acceptance into the program.

**Q. My child has 4's on all his NYS tests, yet he isn't in the SEARCH Program. Why?**

**A.** Levels 1 - 4 cover a **wide** range of percentiles. For a more definitive result, a scaled score is used. The **top four** scale scores in the Level 4 range in both the NYS ELA and the NYS Math Assessment tests are used.

**Q. When will I know if my child has qualified for the SEARCH Program in Grade 4?**

**A.** After the results of the OLSAT are returned in mid November, students placing in

the top ten percent of the district-wide Grade 4 population will qualify. Letters of notification are mailed home in late November.

**Q. What is the criterion used for entrance into the SEARCH Program in Grade 5?**

A. Grade 4 results of the New York State ELA and Mathematics Assessments (total scaled score) are reviewed. The Grade 4 OLSAT score is also used. Additionally, the student's Fourth Grade teacher completes a rating scale based on learning characteristics, motivation and creativity. If this new composite score is equal to or greater than the cutoff score used to identify the SEARCH students presently participating in Grade 5, then this student will be added on to the roster.

**Q. What is the criterion used for entrance into the SEARCH Program in Grade 6?**

A. Grade 5 results of the New York State ELA and Mathematics Assessments (total scaled score) are reviewed. The Grade 4 OLSAT is also used. Additionally, the student's Fifth Grade teacher completes a rating scale based on learning characteristics, motivation and creativity of the child. If this new composite score is equal to or greater than the cutoff score used to identify the SEARCH students presently participating in Grade 6, then this student will be added on to the roster.

**Q. Do you drop children from the SEARCH Program each year?**

A. No, we only add on to our roster of children in the SEARCH and Math Olympiad Programs. Last year we requested that each parent and Grade 4 SEARCH students sign a " Student Contract for Learning," outlining our expectations regarding a positive work ethic and behavior.

**Q. Are children from Saint Patrick's school taking the place of the Huntington school children, when you arrive at the top ten percent?**

A. No. St. Patrick's students who qualify for the program are added onto the ten percent we take from the Huntington school population in Grades 4, 5 & 6.

**Q. What is the criterion used for entrance into the Math Olympiad Program in Grade 5 ?**

A. A student must earn a scaled score of 726 or higher on the Grade 4 New York State Math Assessment test and is expected to complete classroom math assignments in order to participate.

**Q. What is the criterion used for entrance into the Math Olympiad Program in Grade 6?**

A. A student must earn a scaled score of 714 or higher on the Grade 5 New York State Math Assessment test and is expected to complete classroom math assignments in

order to participate.

- Q. What is the criterion for entrance into the QUEST Program in Grade 3 and the SPARK Program in Grade 2?**
- A. All students attend these enrichment classes unless they are already receiving support services in math and/or reading.
- Q. Who attends the Starlab classes?**
- A. All Fifth grade students (fall) and all Third grade students (spring) attend a one hour presentation involving lessons in astronomy, astrology, Native American, Navajo and Greek myths.
- Q. Will my child receive home work from the SEARCH Program?**
- A. Only when necessary.
- Q. Should my child study Math Olympiad problems before each of the five competitions?**
- A. No. Different types of problems are reviewed on a weekly basis.
- Q. When are the SEARCH Program Parent Nights for 2008-2009?**
- A. The SEARCH Program Parent Night for Grades **5 & 6** is scheduled for **Monday, November 24, 2008 at 7:30 PM at Jack Abrams Intermediate School.**  
The SEARCH Program Parent Night for Grade 4 is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 7:30 PM at Jack Abrams Intermediate School.**