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**TRAVIS TIPS: PRIVATE TESTING**  
**Will My Public School Accept it?**  
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A parent called the other day to ask whether a private test would be accepted by her son's school. The Guidance Counselor at her school had told her "Those results will be questioned." Understandably this mom didn't want to get a private test that wouldn't help her son enter the Gifted program. Happily, that counselor was mistaken. Most public personnel are more concerned with proper placement for children than with who administers the eligibility test. They have a few minor concerns that are easily addressed. First of all, the testing must be done by a School Psychologist who is licensed to practice in the state of Florida. The test must be a valid and reliable test usually a WISC-III or a Stanford-Binet-IV. Your child can't take the same test twice over a period of three years. If he had a WISC-III, the psychologist should give a SB-IV. Also, you want to be certain that your child's score on the test warrants another look. A good rule of thumb is any score above 125 is worth retesting.

If he qualifies on the private test, the public school will ask your psychologist to send the protocol to the county psychologist. This is to be sure that there are no errors in administration or scoring – a standard procedure. After that, there are no questions and the results are considered valid and all questions are considered answered by all concerned.

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