

CogAT[®]

Cognitive Abilities Test™

Report to Parents

Recently _____'s class took the *Cognitive Abilities Test*™ (*CogAT*®). This letter reports the test results and can help you understand her/his scores.

What does *CogAT* measure?

CogAT measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime and at different rates for different individuals. Reasoning abilities are good predictors of success in school and are important outcomes of good schooling. *CogAT* does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which also contribute importantly to school achievement.

Why was *CogAT* administered?

- Teachers use *CogAT* scores to help students learn more effectively. For example, if a student's score profile shows an uneven pattern of relative strength and weakness, the teacher can provide challenging opportunities for the student to do the kind of thinking he/she does best (building on the student's strength). The teacher can also support aspects of new tasks that rely on a student's relative weakness. When the student has established a foothold in an area, the teacher can guide her/him to develop the relatively weaker reasoning skill by applying this skill to the familiar task (strengthening the student's weakness).
- The school district will also use the *CogAT* test results to help identify academically gifted students.

How do the three batteries of *CogAT* differ?

- The **Verbal Battery** measures flexibility, fluency, and adaptability in reasoning with verbal materials and in solving verbal problems. These reasoning abilities play an important role in reading comprehension, critical thinking, writing, and virtually all verbal learning tasks.
- The **Quantitative Battery** measures quantitative reasoning skills; flexibility and fluency in working with quantitative symbols and concepts; and the ability to organize, structure, and give meaning to an unordered set of numerals and mathematical symbols. These reasoning skills are significantly related to problem solving in mathematics and other disciplines.
- The **Nonverbal Battery** measures reasoning using geometric shapes and figures. To perform successfully, students must invent strategies for solving novel problems. They must be flexible in using these strategies and accurate in implementing them.

What is this student's relative standing on each battery and the Composite?

Because *CogAT* is nationally normed, an individual's test performance can be compared with the test performances of other students throughout the nation who are the same age.

This student's national age percentile rank of ____ on **verbal reasoning** ability means that he/she scored higher than ____ percent of the students her/his age in the national norming sample. This student's age percentile rank was ____ for **quantitative reasoning** ability and ____ for **nonverbal reasoning** ability. The *CogAT* Composite score is derived from results on the Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal batteries. The **Composite** national age percentile rank of ____ is a general statement of this student's reasoning ability.