CogAT Information for Parents

The Cognitive Abilities Test (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. CogAT does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which contribute to school achievement as well.

What is the CogAT?

CogAT measures students' learned reasoning abilities in the three cognitive domains most closely related to success in school: verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and nonverbal reasoning. CogAT consists of the following three batteries:

- The Verbal Battery assesses students' abilities to use search, retrieval, and comparison processes that are essential for verbal reasoning.
- The Quantitative Battery assesses students' abilities to reason about patterns and relations using concepts that are essential in quantitative thinking.
- The Nonverbal Battery assesses students' abilities to reason with somewhat more novel questions that use spatial and figural content.

Administration

The CogAT is typically administered to Grade 2 students in Loudoun County Public Schools during the month of February. Prior to the first day of testing, students are led through practice activities to familiarize them with the format of the test items. When the testing window begins, students are administered three short subtests each day over three successive school days. Although the subtests are not timed, most students complete each subtest in about 20 minutes. Because CogAT was not administered to Grade 2 students in 2020-2021, Grade 3 students will be administered CogAT during mid-October through November 2021. Although the subtests at this level are timed, there is sufficient time for most students to attempt to answer every question.

Preparatory Materials

The LCPS Office of Research, Assessment, and School Improvement is not able to share information about test item content or make any recommendations regarding preparatory activities for the CogAT. Your child’s teacher will lead the class through practice activities prior to the first day of testing.
Score Reports

The score report for your child is located in the “Documents” section of ParentVUE. Student score reports for Grade 2 testers are uploaded into ParentVUE at about the same time as the third quarter report cards are available. In 2021-2022, student score reports for Grade 3 testers will be available at about the same time as the second quarter report cards. Questions about your child’s scores may be directed to your child’s gifted resource teacher, or to the Gifted Office.

Understanding Your Student’s CogAT Test Results

- **Ability Profile**: A CogAT ability profile captures both the pattern and the level of a student’s scores on the three CogAT batteries. Parents are encouraged to reference the CogAT Interactive Ability Profile Interpretation System for additional information.
- **Raw Score**: Raw scores include the total number of questions on the test, the number of questions that were attempted, and the number of questions answered correctly.
- **Percentile Rank (PR)**: A percentile rank of 80 means that student’s score was higher than 80% of all students in the same norm group who took the same test. The average percentile rank is 50.
- **Stanine (S)**: A stanine is a broader way to group student performance from 1 (lowest) to 9 (highest possible).
- The figure below illustrates the relationship between percentile rank and stanine:

![Percentile Rank vs. Stanine Diagram]

- **Age Norms** compare a student’s performance on the test with that of other students of the same age group. For CogAT, students are grouped by age in one-month intervals.
- **Grade norms** compare a student’s performance on the test with that of other students in the same grade group (fall, midyear, or spring, depending on when the test is taken).
LCPS reports Age Percentile Rank, Age Stanine, Grade Percentile Rank, Grade Stanine, Raw Score, and Ability Profile.

### CogAT

**PROFILE NARRATIVE FOR STUDENT SAMPLE**

*Cognitive Abilities Test™ (CogAT®)*

**Overview**

Student recently took the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). CogAT measures the development of verbal, mathematical, and spatial reasoning abilities that are essential for success in school. Students with different patterns of scores on CogAT have different learning styles. By knowing Student’s learning preferences, teachers can help them achieve greater success in school.

**Student’s Profile of Test Scores**

Student’s scores on the three batteries do not differ significantly. All three of their scores are in the range typically observed in students of this age. For students who have reasoning scores in the average range, the following steps may be helpful:

- **Build on Student’s strengths by encouraging academic accomplishments in areas that interest them.**
- **Point out how new skills and information build on knowledge and skills Student already has.**
- **Show Student how to break complex tasks into simpler steps. Model the steps as you explain them. Write the steps on a sheet of paper and let Student work with a partner to follow them.**
- **Teach Student study skills such as planning use of time, formulating questions to guide study, and taking notes.**

**More Information on Student’s Scores**

The sections to the left explain Student’s performance using different types of comparisons and score scales:

- **The Age Scores section compares the performance to students across the nation who are also 9 years old.**
- **The Grade Scores section compares the performance to students across the nation who are also in grade 2.**

Each of these sections includes one or more scores. The Stanine reports Student’s performance on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 9 (highest). The Percentile Rank indicates the percentage of students in each comparison group whose scores fell at or below the score obtained by Student.

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### Abilities

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<tr>
<th>Abilities</th>
<th>Age Stanine</th>
<th>Age Percentile Rank</th>
<th>7%</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>50%</th>
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<tr>
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### Number of Items

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<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Number Correct</th>
<th>Grade Stanine</th>
<th>Grade Percentile Rank</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>33</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes

Student’s ability profile is 5A. Visit www.cogat.com for more detailed information on profile 5A. Click on the “Interactive Profile Interpretation System” button. Enter 5A in the “Input Your Scores Profile” section. Click “Search”.

Number A1 = Number-Replicated. Please contact your child’s teacher if you need assistance with score interpretation.