



River Forest
Public Schools

CogAT: Cognitive Abilities Test

The CogAT is the Cognitive Abilities Test, a multiple-choice test that measures both general and specific cognitive abilities. The reasoning abilities measured by the test show the cognitive process and strategies that help a student learn new tasks or solve problems. CogAT is not a measure of achievement but rather a measure of reasoning ability in specific aptitude areas. This test measures developed abilities, not innate abilities. Reasoning abilities have substantial correlations with learning and problem solving, both in and out of school.

Why Use CogAT for Our Advanced Programs?

The high ceiling on CogAT, its ability to make reliable discriminations among the top 10 percent of scores in all age groups, and its broad sampling of cognitive skills make this a great assessment to use for all students, including those in our advanced programs.

What Does CogAT Measure?

CogAT measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal.

The **verbal section** focuses on reasoning skills, flexibility, and fluency and includes a test on oral vocabulary and verbal reasoning.

The **quantitative section** focuses on the child's understanding of basic quantitative concepts and relationships that are essential for learning mathematics. It includes tests on relational concepts and quantitative concepts.

The **non-verbal section** uses geometric shapes and figures and helps us see how students look for shapes and patterns. It includes tests on figure classification and matrices.

A separate score is reported for each of these three areas. In addition, a composite, or total, abstract reasoning score is reported.

CogAT Terms

Universal Scale Score (USS): Provides a continuous growth scale of cognitive development from kindergarten through grade 12.

Standard Age Score (SAS): These scores are developed for the purpose of comparing the rate and level of cognitive development of an individual to other students in the same age group.

Percentile Rank (PR): The percentage of scores in a specified distribution that fall at or below the point of a given score. Percentile Ranks range in value from 1 to 99, and indicate the status or relative standing of an individual within a specified group (e.g., norms group), by indicating the percent of individuals in that group who obtained lower scores. Note, however, an individual's percentile rank can vary depending on which group is used to determine the ranking. A student is simultaneously a member of many groups: classroom, grade, building, school District, state, and nation.