

### Cognitive Abilities Test® (CogAT)

Assessments provide valuable information for students, parents and educators on whether students have mastered grade level and content standards and are on track to graduate prepared for the 21st century. These assessment results are intended to provide one measure in a body of evidence of your child's academic progress.



#### WHAT IS THIS ASSESSMENT?

CogAT is an acronym for the Cognitive Abilities Test®, which measures students' learned reasoning abilities. The CogAT consists of multiple choice questions divided into three sections (Verbal Battery, Quantitative Battery, and Nonverbal Battery) with three tests per section, for a total of nine subtests. The verbal battery assesses students' abilities to use search, retrieval, and comparison. The quantitative battery assesses students' abilities to reason about patterns and relations using concepts. The nonverbal battery assesses students' abilities to reason with somewhat more novel questions that use spatial and figural content.

With the exception of 1st graders who receive the questions verbally from a proctor, each subtest is timed at 10 minutes. Students have the opportunity to review their answers before submitting.



#### WHEN IS MY CHILD BEING TESTED?

In compliance with the Exceptional Children's Educational Act (ECEA), the Gifted and Talented (GT) Department uses the CogAT as one part of a larger body of evidence to identify students in need of gifted education services. The CogAT is administered only to students in grades 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7 who complete and submit an application to the Gifted and Talented Department. The deadline for applications is early October.

Testing is in an online format, and takes approximately 2 hours to administer. The CogAT is not a test that can or should be studied for. You can help your student to prepare for taking the test by making sure they get adequate rest, eat a good breakfast, and encourage them to try their best.

#### Testing Windows

You will receive an "Intent to Test" letter prior to the testing date with the dates scheduled at your student's school. For specific test dates, please check with your student's teacher. CogAT testing will occur at the school in early November.



#### WHAT SCORE(S) WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE?

The scores for the CogAT are reported in percentiles which compare your student's results to those of a group of students of the same age or grade chosen to be representative of the U.S. population. Percentile rank tells you what percentage of students of the same age scored the same or below your student. For example, if a student scores at the 90th percentile, that means that he or she scored the same or better than 90% of the students of the same age or grade. Percentile ranks range from 1 to 99, and a score at the 50th percentile is average for that student's age.



#### HOW WILL THESE SCORES BE USED?

The purpose of this assessment is to gather as much information and data as possible to build a body of evidence to support the need for gifted identification as well as inform appropriate educational placement decisions regarding eligibility for gifted magnet site programs. These scores are part of information gathered for a body of evidence. This means that one test score alone does not identify a student as gifted and talented.

All gifted identification must be based on a body of evidence, which must include standardized assessments results at advanced levels. The development of a body of evidence is an ongoing process that does not require a parental request. The body of evidence must also contain a combination of the following criteria that demonstrate advanced abilities: portfolios of work, rubrics, performance, observations, checklists and/or interviews. All information will be reviewed and evaluated by a highly qualified team to determine the educational needs of the student and the most suitable level of gifted support. Depending on level of need, your student may or may not qualify for gifted services.

Students may be identified in three categories: Academic Aptitude, Specific Talent Aptitude, or General Intellectual Ability. Academic areas include: reading, writing, math, science, social studies and world language. Talent aptitude encompasses visual and performing arts, music, dance, psychomotor, creativity and leadership. Students may also be identified in more than one area.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We encourage you to be involved in your child's education. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher for ways you can help your child at home and availability of testing accommodations.

For more information on gifted and talented identification, the universal screening process or levels of gifted service offered in Denver Public Schools, please contact the gifted and talented teacher at your student's school or visit the Gifted and Talented Department website: <http://gt.dpsk12.org>

### **More Information: Assessments**

Visit:

- <http://assessments.dpsk12.org>

If you have questions or concerns about assessments, please contact your child's school directly or call Family Constituency Services at (720) 423-3054.