



BENSENVILLE

SCHOOL DISTRICT 2

210 S. Church Road, Bensenville, IL 60106 | 630-766-5940 | www.bsd2.org

What Parents Should Know About CogAT

What is CogAT?

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. 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 Do Students in BSD2 Take CogAT?

District 2 assesses student achievement through standardized tests and uses the results to match instruction and learning experiences to our students' learning needs. Additionally, test information provides us with feedback that is used to make curricular and instructional decisions that will have the most positive impact upon student learning.

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).

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 Verbal Battery is split into three different subtests: Verbal Classification, Sentence Completion, and Verbal Analogies.

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 Quantitative Battery is split into three different subtests: Quantitative Relations, Number Series, and Equation Building.

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630-766-2601

Tioga School
212 W. Memorial Road
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252 Ridgewood Avenue
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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. The Nonverbal Battery is split into three different subtests: Figure Classification, Figure Analogies, and Figure Analysis.

Interpreting the CogAT Ability Profile

CogAT scores are nationally normed, so an individual’s test performance can be compared to the performance of other students throughout the nation who are the same age. Bensenville School District 2 utilizes the age stanine score as one measure to help determine a student’s instructional needs. An age stanine score ranges from 1 to 9 with 9 being the highest.

Standardized testing is only one way to measure student ability and achievement—it’s not the only way. Human capabilities are much more diverse and complex than what is measured by standardized achievement tests or school ability tests. Educators consider scores from these tests as one view of a student. Classroom performance and teacher assessments are equally important. Teachers also recognize that students’ test-taking skills and attitudes during testing sessions affect their results. Accurately measuring how each student is progressing is an essential component of a school’s program. If you have any questions regarding the CogAT or the ACE Program, please contact your child’s school.

Description	Standard Age Score	Age Stanine	Age Percentile Rank
High	Above 127	9	Above 95
Above Average	120-127	8	89-95
	112-119	7	77-88
Average	104-111	6	60-76
	96-103	5	41-59
	88-95	4	24-40
Below Average	80-87	3	12-23
	72-79	2	5-11
Low	Below 72	1	Below 5