Alexandria City Public Schools

Department of Accountability and Research

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Most second grade students in the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). The **CogAT Profile Narrative,** accompanying this letter, shows your student's performance on the CogAT.

The top large box shows national **Standard Age Scores, Age Stanines** and **Age Percentile Ranks (APR)** for each test battery (Verbal, Quantitative, and NonVerbal), as well as a Composite score across the three batteries (a type of average). The scores in this box compare your student's performance to that of students in the same age group (within one month).

Percentile Rank is probably the most useful score. It converts the **Standard Age Score** into a national percentile score, which is your student's rank in comparison to other children across the nation of the same age. Percentile scores range from 1 to 99 and the national average is 50. If a student scores a 55 in Verbal, it means that the student did as well as or better than 55% of the students at his/her age. Check to see whether your student's scores are above or below the national average. Next, compare your student's scores on the different batteries. Ask yourself if the scores seem to fit what you know about your student. Lastly, review the brief narrative to the right of the two large boxes that summarizes an Ability Profile for your student and indicates whether the battery scores differ or not.

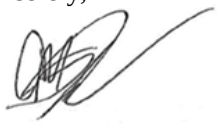
The **Stanine** scores are somewhat similar to percentiles as they represent large groupings of percentiles. Generally, a stanine of 1 to 3 is below average; 4 to 6 is average; and 7 to 9 is above average. National **Age Percentile Ranks** are depicted in a graph on the right of the upper box. A white diamond indicates the actual age percentile. As tests are imperfect instruments, the grey bar shows the range of scores a student might receive if he/she were to retake the CogAT.

The **Grade Scores** in the second box (stanines and national percentile ranks) are exactly as explained above, except this time the comparison group consists of all students in the second grade, regardless of their age. Generally, a younger second grade student is likely to have higher age percentile ranks, while an older second grade student is likely to have lower age percentile ranks.

Test results are used in a number of ways by teachers, administrators, and parents; however, norm-referenced tests, such as the CogAT, are limited to measuring the types of learning that students can show on multiple-choice tests. No test or testing program is 100% accurate for every individual. Classroom teacher comments are probably the best indicators of a student's skill mastery.

More information about the CogAT may be found at *https://blog.riversideinsights.com/parents-guide-ability-learning*. If you have questions, please contact your student's teacher, counselor, or principal. If you have additional questions, please call our office at 703-619-8032.

Sincerely,



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