

Reading the CogAT Report for Parents

In the state of Arizona, students are identified for gifted programming when they score at the 97th percentile (or higher) on a state-approved, gifted assessment (Ariz. Admin. Code § 7-2-406). The state of Arizona recognizes three areas of cognitive ability for placement into a gifted program (verbal, quantitative, nonverbal). Deer Valley Unified School District utilizes multiple cognitive abilities assessments to support student identification and placement. Your child recently completed the CogAT.

The **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)** measures the level and pattern of cognitive development of a student compared to children of the same age. These general reasoning abilities, which start developing at birth and continue through early adulthood, are influenced by experiences gained both in and out of school.

Three Measures of Ability

- **Verbal** - The verbal section measures a child's ability to remember and transform sequences of English words, to understand them and to make inferences and judgments about them.
- **Quantitative** - The quantitative section measures a child's understanding of basic quantitative concepts and relationships.
- **Nonverbal** - The non-verbal section measures reasoning using pictures and geometric shapes. This section reduces the impact of language on the student's score.

Age Norms

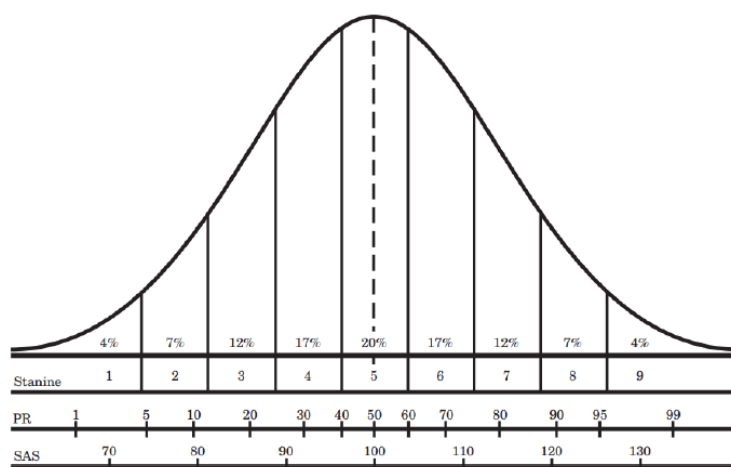
The CogAT uses age norms (national) to calculate scores and compare students of the same age. Students are grouped by age in one-month intervals from 4 years 11 months through 18+ years of age.

The Percentile Rank

A percentile rank is not a percent correct. The percentile reflects a comparison. It indicates the percentage of students in the same age group whose scores fall below the score obtained by a particular student. For example, if your student scored at the 90th percentile on the Verbal battery, it means that your child performed better than 90 percent of students who completed the same assessment. **A percentile rank of 50 is considered average.**

Figure 1-1: Relationship of Stanines, Percentile Ranks, and Standard Age Scores

Percentile Rank	Description
96 th - 99 th	Very High
77 th - 95 th	Above Average
24 th - 76 th	Average
5 th - 23 rd	Below Average



General Information

Test results from a cognitive abilities test can vary greatly depending on a variety of external factors (overthinking, perfectionism, overconfidence, motivation, stress, distractibility, exhaustion, etc.). Test results represent *one* moment in time and cannot fully measure a child's innate abilities and skills.