Frequently Asked Questions about the CogAT

What does CogAT measure?

The CogAT measures reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. 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 to school achievement.

How do the three sections of the 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 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 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.

What type of results does the CogAT provide?

The CogAT provides raw scores, standard age and/or grade scores, Universal Scale Scores, percentile rank scores, stanine scores.

What does the Universal Scale Score (USS) mean?

The Universal Scale Score (USS) is a number that describes a student's location on a continuous growth scale of cognitive development.

What is a stanine score?

The stanine score is a normalized standard score ranging from 1-9. Stanines are grouped as follows:
Stanine 9: Very High
Stanines 7–8: Above Average
Stanines 4–6: Average
Stanines 2–3: Below Average
Stanine 1: Very Low

What is the standard age score (SAS)?
The standard age score is a number that allows the teacher to compare the rate and level of a student's cognitive development with other students the same age. It has a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 16. If a student has a SAS of 100, he/she is typical students for his/her age. On the other hand, if a student has a SAS of 125 that student has a higher and faster rate of learning than most students his/her age.

What is a national percentile rank (NPR) score?
A percentile rank indicates the percentage of students in the same age or grade group whose scores fall below the score obtained by a particular student. For example, if a fifth-grade student obtains a grade PR of 90 on the Quantitative Battery, it means that 90 percent of the fifth-grade students in the sample received scores lower than the one received by the student.