

What is the Purpose of this Packet?

All third grade students in Talbot County Public Schools are asked to complete an assessment that helps to determine participation in the Gifted & Talented program. Attached is a CogAT score report with the score breakdown for your child. Below is a description of how to read that report.

CogAt Interpretation Information for Parents

What is the CogAT?

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), is a norm based assessment in which a student's aptitude in reasoning and problem solving is measured. An individual's score on the CogAT primarily reflects his or her ability to discover relationships and to demonstrate flexibility in thinking when compared to same age peers.

Interpreting Your Child's CogAT score:

A student's score on the CogAT is determined through an overall *Composite (VQN)* score. The Composite (VQN) score is a combination of 3 ability areas: verbal (word), quantitative (number), and nonverbal (picture-figure-spatial relationship). The *Age Percentile Rank* is a comparative percentage in which an individual's score is compared to same age peers. It is a number 1% to 99% where a student's score indicates how they did out of 100% of same aged peers. The score is then referenced to the chart below.

Example: A student's Composite (VQN) score on the CogAT is an Age Percentile Rank of 61%. That means the student performed as well as, or better than, 61% out of 100% of same aged peers who took the test. When looking at the chart below, a score of 61% falls into the average range.

| Age Percentile Rank | Description |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 96-99 | Very High |
| 77-95 | Above Average |
| 23-76 | Average |
| 4-22 | Below Average |
| 1-3 | Very Low |

Each area, verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal can be individually interpreted the same way as the Composite (VQN) score.

An Explanation of the Areas of the Composite (VQN) Score:

Verbal Score

The verbal score reveals the student's ability to perceive the meaning of, and relationships between, words and word combinations. Students are tested in this area by performing sentence completion, solving verbal analogies, and figuring out the relationships between the meanings of words.

Quantitative Score

The quantitative score reveals the student's ability to comprehend and employ numbers that permit him to understand relationships, computational rules, and problem-solving techniques. This ability is tested through asking the student to build and solve equations, recognize number series, and demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between numbers and their values.

Nonverbal Score

The nonverbal score indicates the student's ability to spatially manipulate and reason with geometric patterns and figures. Nonverbal abilities are determined from a student's ability to solve figure analogies, classify designs, and exercise skill in recognizing figures in dimension.

Questions?

If after reading the information above you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Sherry Sutton at (410) 822-0330.