

Frequently Asked Questions about the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) for Parents

What is CogAT?

CogAT is a group-administered abilities test that measures students' reasoning abilities, which they develop through in-school and out-of-school experiences. It is not designed to test a student's academic achievement but rather their potential.

Why is CogAT being administered?

CogAT will be administered to all third and fifth graders. It will help educators understand a student's cognitive strengths and weaknesses and assists with adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of each student. It will also provide data for students' placement into fourth grade G/T mathematics classes or middle school G/T content classes.

What does CogAT measure?

The test consists of three batteries – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. Each section takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

When will CogAT be given?

CogAT will be administered within a time period from December 1 – December 12, 2014.

Who will administer CogAT?

It will be administered by classroom teachers and other certified Howard County Public School teachers.

What should I do to prepare my child for the test?

A good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast are the only preparation necessary. All test administrators will review sample items with the students before administering each part of the test.

What if my child is absent on the days the test is administered at his/her school?

Each school will schedule a make-up day during the testing window for students who were absent for a portion of the test.

What if my child has an IEP/504 Plan?

Testing accommodations as noted in the IEP or 504 Plan will be followed for all CogAT testing.