

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What is the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT7)?***

CogAT7 measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime and at different rates for different individuals. CogAT7 does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which contribute to school achievement as well. All second grade students will take a shorter version of the test called the CogAT7 Screening Form. Nominated students in grades K, 1, 3, and 4 will take the full CogAT7.

### ***Can I prepare my students to take the CogAT7?***

The CogAT7 is very different from other assessments our students are used to taking. For that reason, students should have practice using the materials above prior to the test date. This will make sure students are not surprised by the types of questions. Students will be asked to think in analogies, and determine patterns and relationships.

### ***With such a busy schedule, how can I administer the practice CogAT7 to my second grade class?***

It is not necessary to give the entire practice test in one sitting. We would advise breaking the CogAT7 practice test into sections and practicing with your students for a few minutes every day. For example, you could give one item a day for a week during your morning meeting time. The important point is to give second graders an opportunity to experience the format and question style of the CogAT7. You can download these materials using the links at the top of this page.

### ***How and when will the CogAT7 be administered?***

The testing window for the CogAT7 is November 30-December 10, 2015. Site testing coordinators will facilitate the testing of all second grade students by their classroom teacher. Students referred in other grades will be tested by a designated site staff member. CogAT7 Screening Form takes approximately one hour. The full CogAT7 takes approximately 3 hours.

### ***Will ELL students take the CogAT7?***

Yes, ELL students will take the CogAT7. In grades K-2, the CogAT7 does not require reading. The test is picture based and has been specifically designed to be fair to ELL students. Directions are given orally and can be given in a student's native language. In grades 3 and up, the CogAT7 has been made more accessible to ELL students. New scoring options are also available for students with a Level 1 or 2 language proficiency.

### ***Will SPED students take the CogAT7?***

SPED students will also take the CogAT7. Test accommodations within students' IEPs should be followed. Also, testing accommodations indicated in a 504 plan should be addressed.