



Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Screener

2015-16 Academic School Year

What is it?

The CogAT Screener is a nationally standardized assessment that measures reasoning and problem-solving skills in verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal areas. This assessment measures the cognitive development of each student whom is assessed. The Screener is a shortened version of the full CogAT. It uses approximately 14 questions from each of the three subtests above.

Why is this assessment given?

Throughout life, a student will develop reasoning and problem-solving skills. The CogAT Screener is given to determine in what areas students are meeting the national standards set forth in this assessment, and to assess at which stage of cognitive growth each student falls on the continuous growth scale. The CogAT Screener is one piece of information used to help educators make student placement decisions for Advanced Learner support.

Who takes this assessment?

CogAT is a K-12 assessment and is useful in measuring students' learned reasoning abilities at any primary school age. All second and fifth grade MMSD students will take the assessment.

How is the test given?

The CogAT Screener test is pencil and paper test administered in-class, in three different parts, addressing the verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal skills learned by students. The total time is approximately 45 minutes.

When is the test given?

The test is given once a year. The district window for the CogAT in 2015-16 is 10/26 – 11/6.

How will results be shared?

Results will be shared with parents upon request. Results are one of several data points used to help determine which students require Advanced Learner support. Reports for all students will be mailed out via US mail. These reports will contain information about how to read the scores and what each score means, as well as to how it can be used to support learning.

How does this assessment reflect my child's performance?

As with any assessment, this is only one measure of your student's academic performance. It is only through *multiple* assessments (for example, teacher developed assessments, state and district assessments) that we are able to develop a clearer picture of your student's current level of performance as well as their growth over time.

For more information, contact:
Office of Assessment, 608-442-2944
mmsd.org/assessment