

CogAT FAQs

Before the test:

If administrators set up the test sessions for their teachers, how do they share the codes with the teachers?

- *Teachers can see all of the tests that the admin creates. Please use teacher names when creating each test session, to be sure that the teacher is choosing the correct test session. Alternatively, teachers can create their own test sessions, and administrators can see all of the sessions created by teachers.*

How much time do we need to plan for each 'test battery' (verbal, quantitative, & non-verbal)?

- *From the time students begin taking a test battery, it takes 30 minutes. We recommend that you plan for 45 minutes to an hour for each test battery, as it will take some time for all students to get organized on the secure browser and log in using the test session code.*

Do all teachers at a site need to use the same test admin type (teacher-led or audio English/Spanish)?

- *Although we highly recommend that teachers use the audio function, the decision is up to each individual teacher. The teacher-led option would be a better choice if your school does not have enough headphones for each student, or if you will need to translate (instructions only) into a language other than Spanish.*

Do we have to give the Getting Ready section?

- *Getting Ready is an optional preview, and it may be a very useful way to familiarize your students with the testing procedure and to have a trial run with your technology before the day of the first battery. Getting ready needs to be set up as a separate test session, and will not allow students to continue on to the Verbal battery.*

Should we look at the test in advance to prepare our kids for the types of questions they'll encounter?

How can we help them study?

- *The CogAT is a test of their cognitive abilities, and is not something that students can study for in advance. Please present this as a low-stakes event, or even just a series of puzzles that will help us understand how students' brains can solve problems. It is not a test of their academic achievement. Practice activities have been provided, to be used ONLY in the classroom (these should not be sent home!)*

I have a split class. What should I do with my students who are not testing?

- *In this situation, the audio English and/or Spanish functions will be very helpful. Your non-testing students can be working on an independent task while you are getting your 3rd graders started on the test and monitoring their progress on your proctor screen.*

I have students whose IEPs call for extended time on tests. How do we handle this?

- *There is no provision for extra time on our administration of the CogAT. The only accommodation is that you can translate DIRECTIONS ONLY into a student's home language. RSP students should still take the CogAT, but SDC students should not.*

Who can administer the test?

- *Ideally, each classroom teacher administers the test to his or her own students. Some sites may choose to have a designated specialist or administrator proctor the tests for all 3rd graders. Proctors must be credentialed teachers or administrators, and not short-term subs. If you have or are a long-term sub in a 3rd grade classroom, please contact Kari about test proctoring.*

Do students who are already GATE identified still take the test?

- **Yes**, all of your 3rd graders (who are not SDC students) will take the CogAT. These scores will help us learn more about the specific areas of a student's gifts. If a student has been previously identified, a low score on this test will NOT remove that designation, but it may provide you information on how to support that student in the future.

During the test:

How do students access the test?

- *Use the computers provided for Statewide testing in the Spring, the tech team has installed a program to open a secure browser that only allows students to access the CogAT. Students will open the browser by clicking on **the desktop icon that looks like a compass**. Make sure students know their SCUSD id code, and give them the test session code for whichever battery you will be administering that day.*

In what order should we give the three batteries?

- *Verbal is first, followed by Quantitative, then Non-verbal. Please break up these test sessions over several days, as 90 minutes is too long for most 3rd graders to be testing.*

Can we do the subtests within each battery on different days, so it only takes 10 minutes a day?

- *No, please administer all 3 subtests of each battery together.*

What do we do if a student needs to use the bathroom or there's a fire drill that interrupts the test session?

- *You can pause one student at a time if you think he or she will be right back to the test. This stops their time and allows them to resume easily when they return. If there's a bigger disruption, and you don't know if you'll be able to finish it that day, you can use the "stop all" function. Both pausing and stopping save a student's progress and allow them to continue from where they left off. Please do not cancel anyone's test! This will erase their progress completely. Call Kari if you think you might have a situation that would require cancelling a test.*

After the test:

What do we do if students are absent during one or more test sessions?

- *Please do your best to handle all test makeups at your site. If a student has missed one or two of the batteries but is present as the rest of the class is doing the Quantitative or Non-Verbal battery, please remember that they still need to start with the Verbal battery. You can have two test sessions open at the same time, so a student could be making up Verbal while the rest of the class is working on Quantitative. Unfortunately, if you are using both an audio English and an audio Spanish test for your students, that counts as your two test sessions.*
- *If a makeup cannot be completed at your site, we will host one make up day at Camellia Basic on **Wednesday, February 3rd at 9:00 AM** Parents will be responsible for bringing their students to this makeup session.*

If a student finishes early, what do they do?

- *The test returns students to the draw screen after they complete each subtest. They will wait for everyone in the class to finish that subtest before you can push the "continue all" button to allow them to start the next subtest within the battery.*

How will teachers access scores?

- *Once testing is complete, test results will be available on Data Manager. Additionally, the scores will be exported to Illuminate and Infinite Campus. Test results along with GATE Identification status, will be shared with all parents.*

How will parents be notified about their student's score?

- *The GATE office will provide letters for parents. These will give parents their student's score on the CogAT, along with how to interpret it, and also share information about whether their students would benefit from GATE services at this time.*

Please contact Kari Hanson-Smith with any questions or concerns!

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