A Guide to Understanding
The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Screener

What is the CogAT Screener?

The CogAT Screener is a nationally standardized assessment that measures a student's level and pattern of verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal (spatial) abilities. The screener uses picture-based questions to determine a student's reasoning and problem-solving abilities with Picture Analogies (Verbal subtest), Number Analogies (Quantitative subtest), and Figure Matrices (Nonverbal subtest). Each subtest takes roughly 10-15 minutes to complete.
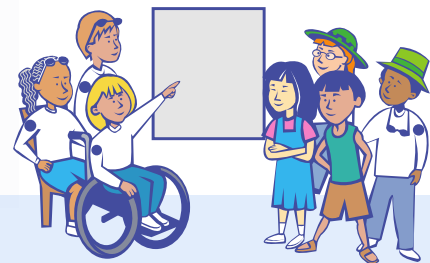
Why is the CogAT Screener given?

The CogAT Screener is given to measure a student's reasoning and problem-solving abilities compared to national norms. Because these abilities are closely related to an individual's performance in virtually all subjects, CogAT Screener results are helpful in planning effective instructional programs and adapting instruction. In Oak Park USD, the screener results will be used as one of multiple pieces of student data to make decisions for GATE recommendation and identification.

Who takes the CogAT Screener?

Starting in Winter 2023, all OPUSD second grade students will be screened using the CogAT Screener.

How is the screener given?

The CogAT Screener is an online screener with 3 subtests. The entire screening process takes, including the student "warm up", approximately 60 minutes.

How will results be shared?

Similar to our Fastbridge screening process, results will be shared with appropriate school staff. Parents may request their student's score from the CogAT Coordinator, Cori Orlando (corlando@opusd.org).

How will results be used?

The CogAT screening results will be used as one data point in determining GATE recommendation and identification.

Oak Park
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT