

Gifted & Talented (G&T) *Frequently Asked Questions – Score Report*

The New York City Department of Education (DOE) provides Gifted & Talented (G&T) programs for students who meet assessment eligibility requirements, apply for admission, and are accepted via lottery. Students scoring at or above the 97th percentile are eligible for placement in both citywide and district G&T programs. Students who perform at or above the 90th percentile are eligible for placement in G&T district programs only.

Score reports for students who participated in the January 2013 G&T assessment program are now available for parents to review. This document answers frequently asked questions about the methods used to calculate students' G&T scores.

How are the new assessments different than previous years' G&T assessments?

In previous years, the DOE used the full version of the Otis Lennon School Abilities Test (OLSAT), which included verbal and nonverbal components, as well as the Bracken School Readiness Assessment (BSRA). The complete version of the OLSAT, which was administered in previous years, measured abstract thinking and reasoning skills by assessing verbal, quantitative, and spatial reasoning abilities. The BSRA, a school readiness assessment, measures the kinds of skills and knowledge that children acquire in educational settings.

In January 2013, the DOE used only the verbal component of the OLSAT-8. The nonverbal component of the OLSAT-8 and the BSRA, which were used in previous years to measure nonverbal abilities and school readiness skills, were replaced by the Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test (NNAT-2). Please refer to the [FAQ on G&T assessments](#) for detailed information about the tests.

How are the assessments scored?

After the testing period ended, all assessment materials were returned to the test vendor for scanning and scoring. The vendor scored the assessments using raw scores, normalized standard scores based on age, and percentile ranks for the Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test (NNAT-2) and the verbal Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT-8).

Your child's **raw scores** show the number of items your child answered correctly. There were 48 total test items on the nonverbal NNAT-2 and 30 total test items on the verbal OLSAT-8.

Since the NNAT-2 and the OLSAT-8 are two different tests that were administered together, the raw scores for each test needed to be placed on a common scale in order to determine percentile ranks. This type of score is called a **normalized standard score**, and is shown on your child's score report as NAI (nonverbal standard score, for the NNAT-2) and SAI (verbal standard score, for the OLSAT-8). The use of standard scores like the NAI and SAI is standard practice in testing for ability and intelligence, especially in young children.

Your child's score report also showed two types of percentile ranks: the domain percentile ranks and the overall percentile rank. The **domain percentile ranks** correspond to the NAI and the SAI, respectively. Your child's **overall G&T percentile rank** determines whether s/he is eligible to apply for district and citywide G&T programs. The NAI counted for 65% of the overall percentile rank and the SAI counted for 35% of the overall percentile rank. These weighted standard scores, not the domain percentile ranks, were then combined and converted to generate your child's overall G&T percentile rank.



Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

What is a raw score?

A raw score refers to the number of test items your child answered correctly. For the OLSAT-8, this is a number out of 30 total verbal test items. For the NNAT-2, this is a number out of 48 total nonverbal test items.

What is a normalized standard score?

The nonverbal NNAT-2 and verbal OLSAT-8 raw scores are converted into normalized standard scores so that the two tests, which are on different scales, can be combined to generate an overall G&T percentile rank. Normalized standard scores are also used to show how students taking the NYC G&T assessments performed relative to their same-aged peers in the national sample of students who took these tests.

Normalized standard scores are reported for the verbal component, shown as the SAI (Student Ability Index, for the OLSAT-8), and the nonverbal component, shown as the NAI (Nonverbal Ability Index, for the NNAT-2).

What is a percentile rank?

A percentile rank is a whole number (no decimal points) between 1 and 99 that is used to show the relative standing of an individual student compared to his or her same-aged peers. For example, a student with a percentile rank of 50 indicates that the student performed similarly or better than 50% of his or her same-aged peers who took the test. Percentile rank is not the same as percent correct, which is a conversion of the raw score into a percent (e.g. a student who got 8 out of 10 questions right has a percent correct score of 80%).

You will see a percentile rank for the verbal component (OLSAT-8) and the nonverbal component (NNAT-2), as well as for your child's overall G&T percentile rank.

- The percentile ranks in each of the domains refer to your child's relative performance in either the verbal or the nonverbal domains only. Verbal and nonverbal percentile ranks are not weighted or combined to generate an overall percentile rank.
- The overall G&T percentile rank is calculated by weighting, combining and converting the nonverbal NAI and the verbal SAI normalized standard scores into percentile ranks. This overall percentile rank is used to determine eligibility and placement.

What were the final weights assigned to each assessment and why?

The final weights assigned to each component are 65% nonverbal (NNAT-2) and 35% verbal (OLSAT-8). NNAT-2 was weighted more heavily because it does not rely on language or vocabulary skills that may benefit students with prior school experience. Also, since the NNAT-2 is the longer of the two tests, it is appropriate that more weight be assigned to it than to the OLSAT-8.

Why are my child's percentile rank scores on the nonverbal and verbal components higher than his/her overall G&T percentile rank?

Your child's percentile ranks in each domain (nonverbal NNAT-2 and verbal OLSAT-8) are not factors in his/her overall percentile rank. Rather, three-digit normalized standard scores in each domain are weighted and combined to calculate an overall percentile rank. This rank is based on your child's performance on the two tests combined based on the published national norms. Because the overall percentile rank is calculated based on these normalized standard scores in each domain, there is not a one-to-one relationship between the nonverbal and verbal percentile ranks and the composite percentile rank.

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How are my child’s nonverbal and verbal scores calculated?

The nonverbal and verbal weights (65% nonverbal and 35% verbal) are *not* applied to the raw scores. Rather, your child’s nonverbal and verbal raw scores are each converted into normalized standard scores based on your child’s age and the published national norms for each assessment. These are reported as NAI for nonverbal and SAI for verbal in the 3rd column from the left on your child’s score report. Students were administered one of three test levels:

- Students born in 2008 or 2007 were administered level A;
- Students born in 2006 were administered level B, and;
- Students born in 2005 or 2004 were administered level C.

Illustrative Sample for LEVEL A:

Table 2. OLSAT-8 and NNAT-2 Verbal and Nonverbal Score			
Component	Number of items answered correctly	Normalized Standard Score	Percentile Rank
Verbal	17 out of 30	117 SAI	86
Non-verbal	26 out of 48	123 NAI	92

The nonverbal NAI and verbal SAI normalized standard scores are then converted into percentile ranks for each domain using a conversion table. Please refer to the appropriate **G&T Score Conversion Table** for your child’s year of birth (linked below) to determine your child’s nonverbal and verbal percentile ranks, which are based on their normalized standard scores (NAI for nonverbal and SAI for verbal).

How is my child’s overall percentile rank calculated?

The nonverbal and verbal normalized standard scores are weighted (65% for nonverbal and 35% for verbal) and combined, and then converted into an overall percentile rank based on year of birth.

When you receive your child’s corrected score report (by April 29, 2013), refer to the appropriate G&T Score Conversion Table to determine your child’s overall percentile rank based on their year of birth:

- [G&T Score Conversion Table for children born in 2004 or 2005](#)
- [G&T Score Conversion Table for children born in 2006](#)
- [G&T Score Conversion Table for children born in 2007 or 2008](#)

Note: these score conversion tables are not intended for use with your child’s incorrect G&T score reports.

How do I use the G&T Score Conversion Tables?

To use the conversion tables, you will first need to locate your child’s SAI and NAI on his/her score report. These are three-digit scores located in Table 2, in the third column from the left, on the score report.

Once you have located your child’s SAI and NAI scores, refer to the appropriate G&T Score Conversion Table based on your child’s year of birth (linked above).

- The top horizontal rows of this table show the range of SAI scores (labeled “OLSAT Verbal Student Ability Index (SAI)”). The light orange row directly under the SAI score shows the corresponding *verbal* percentile rank.
- The left most columns of this table show the range of NAI scores (labeled “NNAT2 Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Index (NAI)”). The light green column to the immediate right of each NAI score shows the corresponding *nonverbal* percentile rank.

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- Your child's *overall* percentile rank is the 2-digit number that can be found in the central rows and columns of the score conversion table, shown in varying shades of blue, white, and gray (these colors correspond to overall percentile ranks). The overall percentile rank is the number where your child's verbal SAI score (horizontal top row) and nonverbal NAI (vertical left row) intersect.
- For example:
 - A child born in either 2007 or 2008 with a verbal SAI of 117 (SAI percentile rank 86) and a nonverbal NAI of 123 (NAI percentile rank 92) has an **overall percentile rank of 91**.
 - A child born in 2006 with a verbal SAI of 117 (SAI percentile rank 86) and a nonverbal NAI of 123 (NAI percentile rank 92) has an **overall percentile rank of 91**.
 - A child born in 2005 or 2004 with a verbal SAI of 117 (SAI percentile rank 86) and a nonverbal NAI of 123 (NAI percentile rank 92) has an **overall percentile rank of 92**.

Locate your child's SAI and NAI scores on the appropriate G&T Conversion Table for your child's year of birth to find the verbal and nonverbal percentile rank that corresponds with these scores, respectively. Then, use the same G&T Conversion Table to determine your child's overall percentile rank.

Note: the G&T Score Conversion Tables are two pages long, and are in PDF format. You may need to zoom in on the file to make it easier to read.