



# REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Office of Instructional Services

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### Understanding the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT)

The OLSAT measures the cognitive abilities that relate to a student's ability to learn in school. By assessing a student's abstract thinking and reasoning abilities, OLSAT supplies educators with information they can use to enhance the insight that traditional achievement tests provide. The name "School Ability" reflects the tests intent: to measure the student's ability to cope with school learning tasks. These tasks are skills that are not typically taught, but skills a student already possesses. Components of this assessment include:

- Multiple-Choice items that measure verbal, quantitative, and special reasoning abilities;
- Timed test;
- The test has 21 subtests organized into five areas with verbal and non-verbal items in each area: Verbal Comprehension, Verbal Reasoning, Pictorial Reasoning, Figural Reasoning, and Quantitative Reasoning.

### Understanding a Student's OLSAT Report

A variety of scores are available to describe the student's total, verbal, and nonverbal performance, including School Ability Indexes (SAIs), percentile ranks and stanines based on age and grade, scaled scores, and normal curve equivalents (NCEs).

#### SAI (School Ability Index)

- SAI Below 68 = approximately 2% of the student population
- SAI of 100 = the average, 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (**Note - The average student correctly answers approximately ½ of the questions correctly.**)
- SAI Above 132 = approximately 2% of the student population
- SAI of 150 = the maximum score

#### Age PR-S

- Student percentile rank when compared to student's age.
- This may be helpful when interpreting scores for younger students in the grade level tested.

#### National Grade PR-S

- Students percentile rank when compared to students grade level.

### **Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Identification:**

A total School Ability Index (SAI) score of 126 or higher is recognized as gifted in the area of superior cognitive ability. RBUSD will identify any student with a percentile rank of 95% or above as "GATE Qualified."