



San Diego Unified School District

Fact Sheet

California Achievement Test Sixth Edition Survey (CAT/6)

The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program, which helps to measure how well students are learning academic skills, is part of California's testing and accountability system. The STAR Program consists of four parts: the California Standards Tests (CSTs), the California Achievement Test, Sixth Edition (CAT/6), the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA), and Aprenda: La prueba de logros en español, Tercera edición (Aprenda 3).

The CAT/6 test shows how San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) students are performing on basic skills in relation to other students across the nation.

SDUSD uses information from the CAT/6, along with information from the California Standards Tests (CSTs), to monitor student progress and improve teaching and learning. The CAT/6 measures students' acquisition of basic skills, and the CST measures students' knowledge of state-adopted academic standards.

A full evaluation of an individual student's academic performance requires teachers to review that student's day-to-day progress and performance (e.g., written work, projects, portfolios, classroom discussion, and other types of assessments) in addition to CST and CAT/6 performance. The state uses the results of both the CST and CAT/6 to calculate the Academic Performance Index (API) for all schools that enroll students in Grades 3 and 7.

- The CAT/6 is a multiple choice test of basic skills given to students in Grades 3 and 7 covering reading/language, spelling, and mathematics.
- The CAT/6 is a norm-reference achievement test. "Norm-referenced" means a standardized test that allows for the comparison of the test scores students receive in relation to other students of the same grade from a representative ("normed") group of students.
- The CAT/6 is always administered with standard testing procedures that indicate the exact directions, time limits, and scoring criteria to be used. Standard testing procedures ensure that the testing conditions are the same for all students.
- The CAT/6 requires about 2 ½ to 3 hours to administer. The following chart shows the testing time (in minutes) for each grade level.

2006-07 CAT/6 Testing Times (in minutes)

SUBJECT	Grade 3	Grade 7
READING/LANGUAGE	90	105
SPELLING	25	25
MATHEMATICS	50	50
TOTALS	165	180

2006-07 CAT/6 TESTING WINDOW

Schools on a traditional calendar	Thursday, April 26, 2007 - Thursday, May 17, 2007
Schools on a single-track year-round (STYR) calendar	Tuesday, May 29, 2007 - Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Contact Information: Standards, Assessment, and Accountability: (619) 725-7166
Media inquiries: (619) 725-5578

www.sandi.net
Revised 10/17/06