

This report is an analysis of the utilization and overall average student performance by grade level on the Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT). CogAT test students’ mental ability and is used as a criterion for assessing gifted eligibility. In the state of Georgia, students in <sup>1</sup>grades K – 12 must perform at the 96<sup>th</sup> percentile composite or appropriate component score on a nationally age normed mental ability test.

For the purposes of this analysis, the count of students who took the assessment and the average performance is disaggregated by grade level. Below are some of the observations made, however this list is not exhaustive:

- In all the years included in this analysis, > 75% of the testing occurred in grades K – 4.
- The number of students who took the test for school years (SYs) 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 were 5842, 3768 and 5587 respectively.
- There was a significant drop in the number of students taking the test during the most restrictive period of the COVID-19 pandemic, however the SY 2021-2022 numbers increased back to the trending (relative to student enrollment) overall totals.
- There is evidence that the trending pattern has change, which can also be attributed to the effects of the pandemic. This change included but is not limited to the postponing of the testing for SY 2020-2021 to the Spring semester.
- In most cases, the average universal composite score by grade, year over year is cylindrical, with an upward trend in the prominent testing grades with the exception of Grade K.
- Under typical circumstances, approximately six (6) percent of students in district take the assessment.

**Table of Figures**

Figure 1: SY 2019 - 2020 CogAT Count of Student Results by Grade Level .....2

Figure 2: SY 2020 - 2021 CogAT Count of Student Results by Grade Level .....3

Figure 3: SY 2021 - 2022 CogAT Count of Student Results by Grade Level .....4

Figure 4: Three (3) Year Comparison of Students CogAT Results by Grade Level.....5

Figure 5: Three (3) Year Comparison of the CogAT Average Universal Composite Score by Grade .....6

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Documents/Gifted%20Education/GIFTED%20EVALUATION%20and%20ELIGIBILITY%20CHART.pdf>

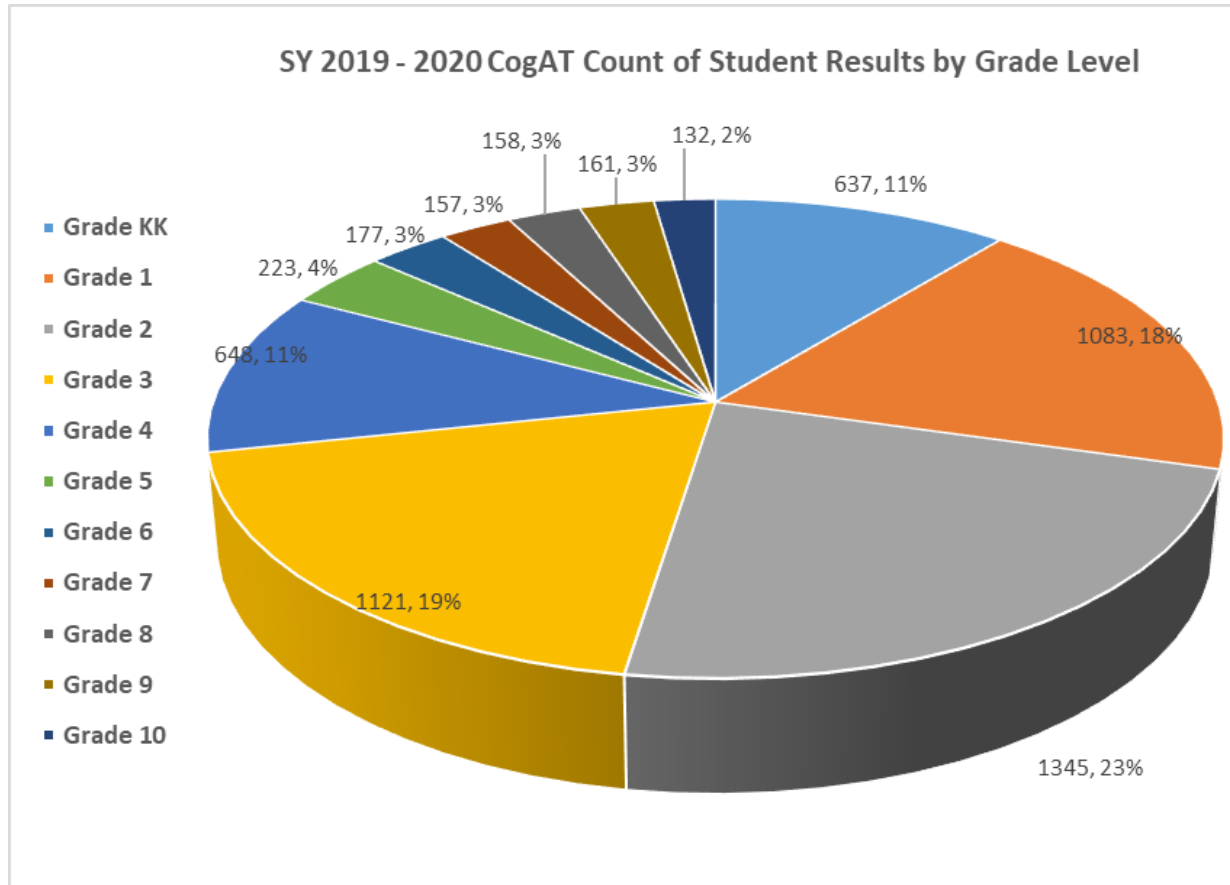


Figure 1: SY 2019 - 2020 CogAT Count of Student Results by Grade Level

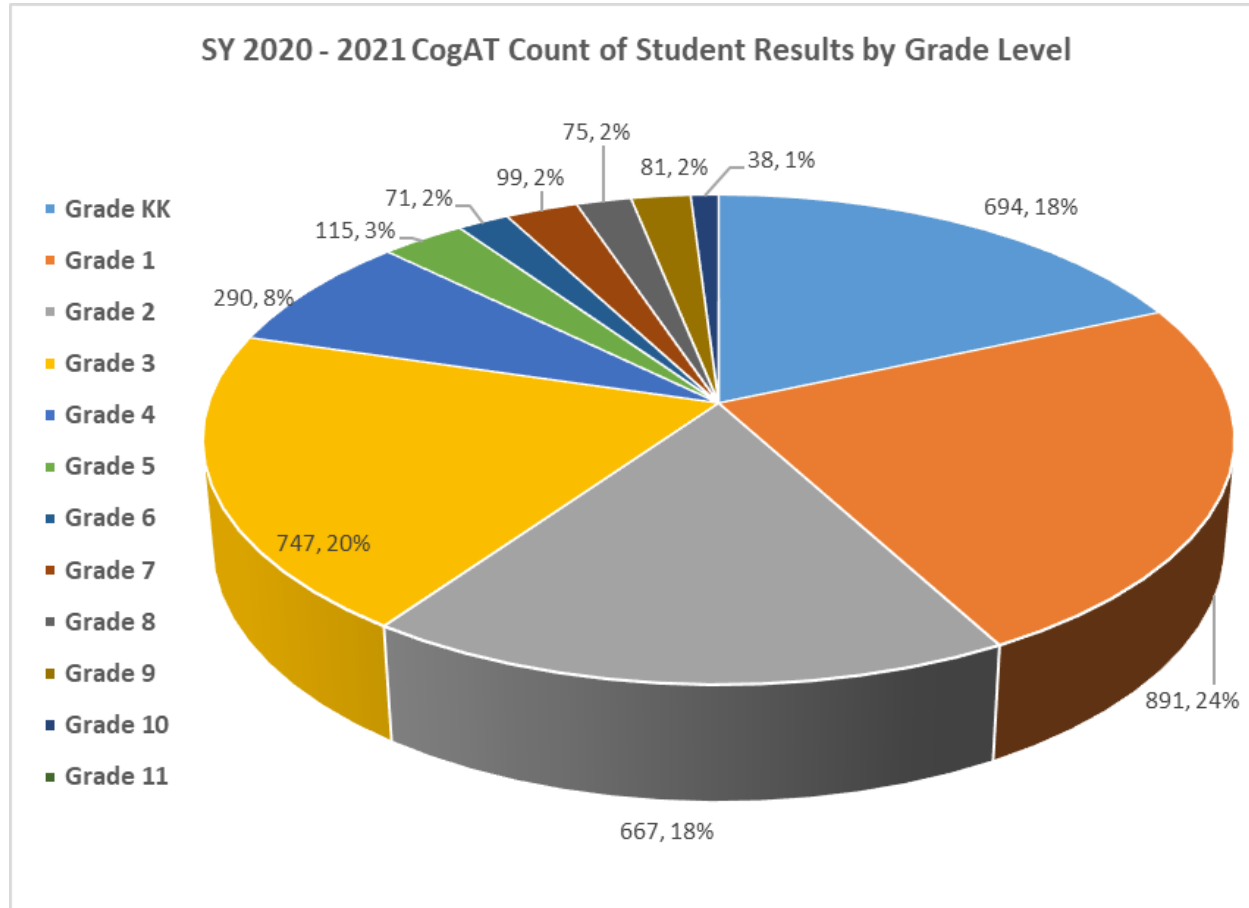


Figure 2: SY 2020 - 2021 CogAT Count of Student Results by Grade Level

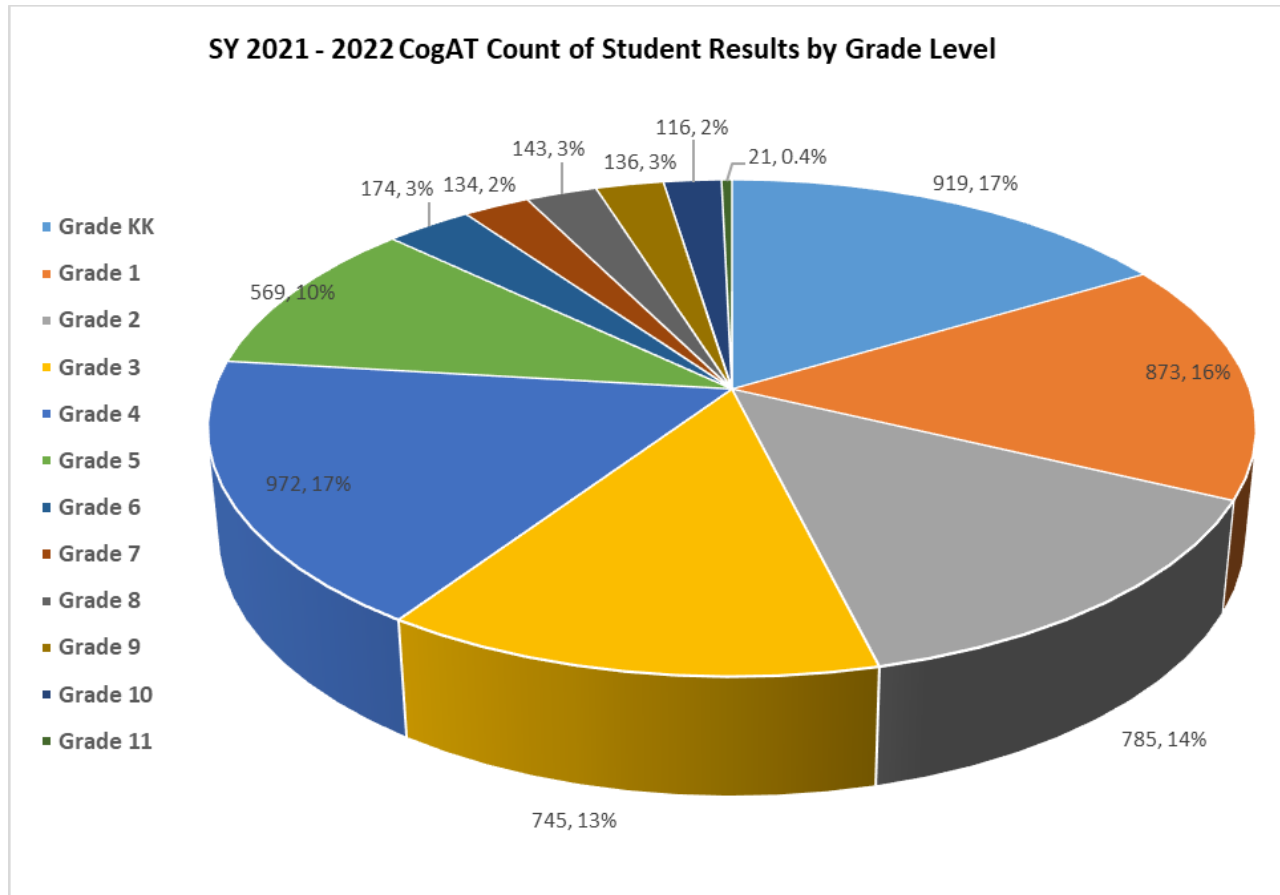


Figure 3: SY 2021 - 2022 CogAT Count of Student Results by Grade Level

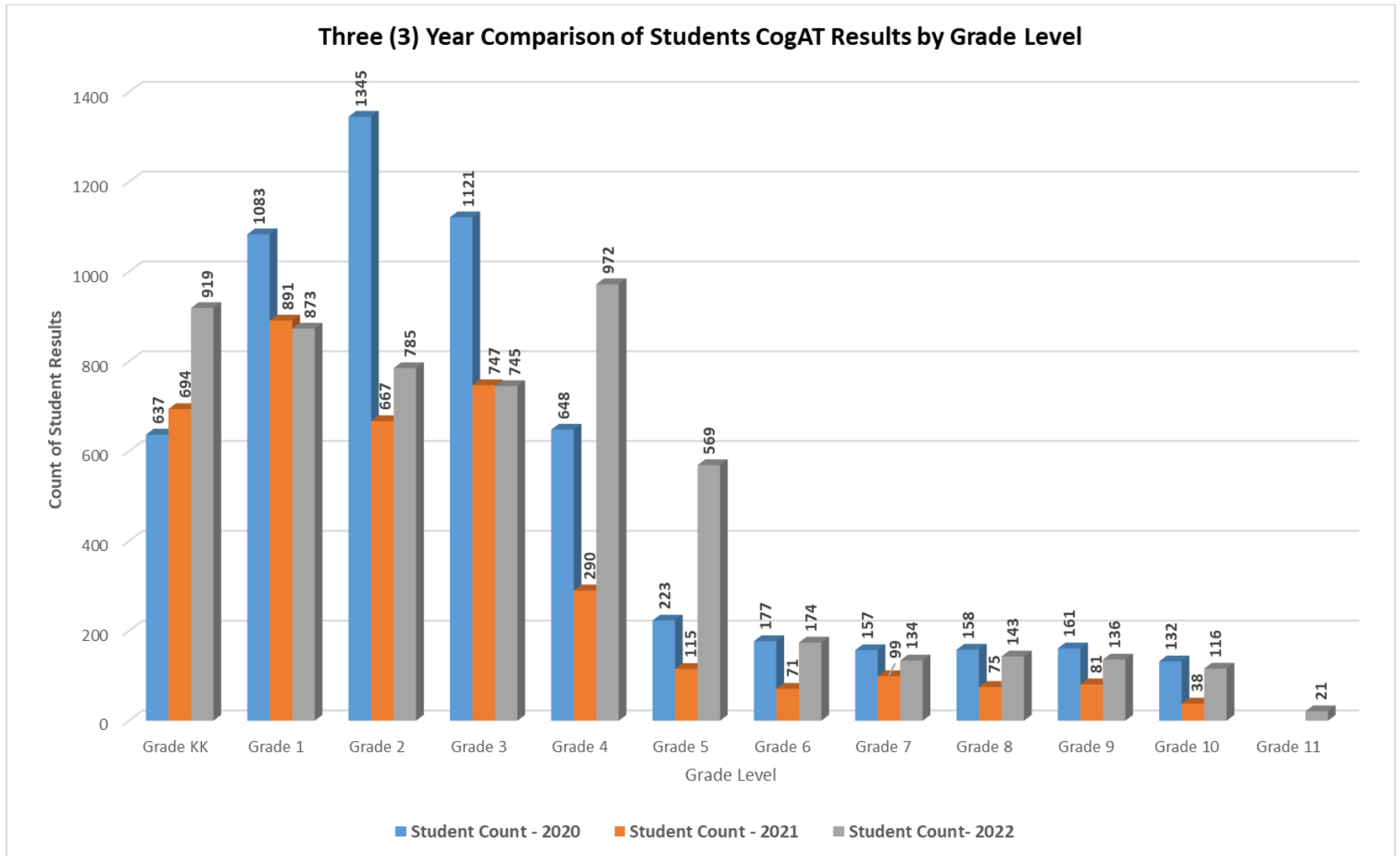


Figure 4: Three (3) Year Comparison of Students CogAT Results by Grade Level

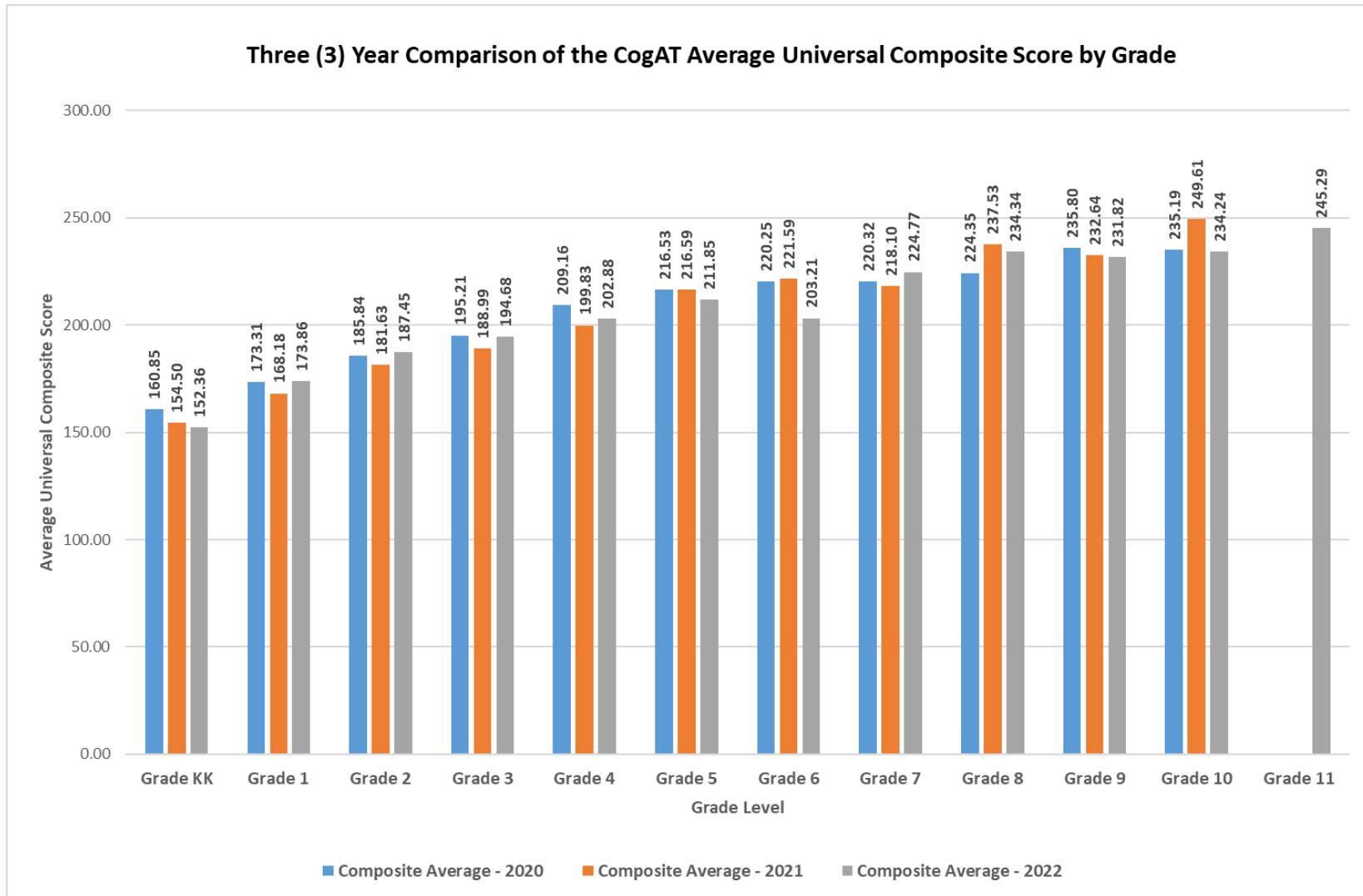


Figure 5: Three (3) Year Comparison of the CogAT Average Universal Composite Score by Grade