The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test® (OLSAT®)

The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test® (OLSAT®) is published by Pearson NNC (previously Harcourt Assessment Services). The OLSAT® is widely used throughout the U.S. as a screening test for gifted program entry.

OLSAT-specifically assesses those abilities that are related to success in school. Tasks such as detecting similarities and differences, recalling words and numbers, defining words, following directions, classifying, establishing sequence, solving mathematical problems, and completing analogies are included."

The test has been used throughout the country for many years.

The OLSAT® is completely different from tests like the SAT® taken at the end of high school where a new test is used each testing date so that there is a history of released tests that you can use to prepare.

The OLSAT® is not a school ability test, a cognitive ability test or an IQ test. Your child's OLSAT® test score will give you an idea of how smart they are but it isn't an IQ score. An IQ test, such as the WISC® or Stanford-Binet®, done one on one with a psychologist is a much more comprehensive, and accurate, test of cognitive ability.

The OLSAT® is completely different from formative and summative achievement tests like the STAR, MAPS and CST's. These tests are designed to measure how well a child has learned what they should have been taught. Can they read and do mathematics at grade level, for example? The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test®, in contrast, is intended to provide an indication of intrinsic ability. How well can your child problem solve in different contexts? How easily and consistently can your child recognize patterns and use this recognition to process new information and provide answers?

Scoring of the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test® doesn't penalize for incorrect answers so your child's score can only go up if they guess the answers to questions they don't know. If they guess the correct answer their score will go up. If they guess the incorrect answer their score will be the same as if they left that question blank.