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modern computer technology has opened up several new possibilities for optimizing the administration of educational and psychological tests in computer adaptive testing cat tests are automatically tailored to the proficiency level of the individual examinees currently nearly all large scale testing programs in the western world are already adaptive or in the process of becoming so written by active cat researchers from europe and north america the chapters offer a comprehensive introduction to the latest developments in the theory and practice of cat the book can be used both as a basic reference on the state of the art in cat and a valuable resource in graduate courses

on test theory the theoretical chapters in this book cover such topics as item selection and ability estimation item pool development and maintenance item calibration and model fit and testlet based adaptive testing the practical chapters describe the operational aspects of existing large scale cat programs

eleven stimulating essays using case studies of major cities and their schools suggest what might be done to better foster equity and diversity in educating american public schoolchildren highlighting the complications inherent in today s education system and providing a framework for grappling with these problems

the major source of information on the availability of standardized tests wilson library bulletincovers commercially available standardized tests and hard to locate research instruments

with critical issues like desegregation and funding facing our schools dissatisfaction with public education has reached a new high teachers decry inadequate resources while critics claim educators are more concerned with job security than effective teaching though urban education has reached crisis proportions contending players have difficulty agreeing on a common program of action this book tells why changing urban education confronts the prevailing naivete in school reform by examining the factors that shape reinforce or undermine reform efforts edited by one of the nation s leading urban scholars it examines forces for change and resistance in urban education and proposes that the barrier to reform can only be overcome by understanding how schools fit into the broader political contexts of their cities much of the problem with our schools lies with the reluctance of educators to recognize the profoundly political character of public education the contributors show how urban political contexts vary widely with factors like racial composition the role of the teachers union and relations between cities and surrounding metropolitan areas presenting case studies of original field research in baltimore chicago houston and six other urban areas they consider how resistance to desegregation and the concentration of the poor in central urban areas affect education and they suggest how cities can build support for reform through the involvement of business and other community players by demonstrating the complex interrelationship between urban education and politics this book shows schools to be not just places for educating children but also major employers and large spenders of tax dollars it also introduces the concept of civic capacity the ability of educators and non educators to work together on common goals and suggests that this key issue must be addressed before education can be improved changing urban education makes it clear to educators that the outcome of reform efforts depends heavily on their political context as it reminds political scientists that education is a major part of the urban mix while its prognosis is not entirely optimistic it sets forth important guidelines that cannot be ignored if our schools are to successfully prepare children for the future

this text focuses on methods for helping teachers develop their students literacy skills to enhance learning of content subject matter across all disciplines it pulls together some of the most current and popular strategies and techniques in content area literacy these strategies and techniques have been carefully selected for their ease of application and adaptation by classroom teachers in any classroom at any level

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