

Understanding the TerraNova Test

Testing Dates: May 11-15 2015

Kindergarten to Grade 2

A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in shades of teal, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.


What is TerraNova

- ◆ **Terra Nova is a norm-referenced nationally standardized Achievement test.**
- ◆ Nationally standardized means that the test was administered to students across the country. Norms are also set for the time of year the tests are taken.

Achievement vs. Proficiency

- ◆ The TerraNova is an achievement test, not a proficiency test such as the state administers. Proficiency tests are those in which students have been taught all of the content and are now being tested on whether or not they “got” it. Achievement tests include content students may not have been specifically taught, but that they could be expected to have mastered according to their cognitive ability.

Why the TerraNova?

- ◆ TerraNova is one of the most respected and widely used achievement tests, measuring mastery in the core subjects. Its design is fresh and user-friendly, and its content current.
 - ◆ TerraNova provides detailed diagnostic information, norm- and criterion- referenced scores, and performance-level data.
 - ◆ Tests results are available online just a few days after submitting them for scoring.
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TerraNova's alignment to state and national standards

- ◆ TerraNova aligns to state standards and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) framework.
- ◆ TerraNova, Third Edition, for reading, language, math, science, and social studies, features a carefully researched test blueprint that reflects today's challenging standards for content and performance. With customized research studies,
- ◆ TerraNova, Third Edition can report student achievement relative to state standards and can be used to predict likely outcomes on a state's NCLB exam.

TerraNova Components


- ◆ **Kindergarten: Complete Battery: All multiple choice items. Includes subtests: Reading, Language, Mathematics.**
- ◆ **70 questions/ 1:35**

- ◆ **Grades 1 and 2: Complete Battery: All multiple choice items. Includes subtests: Reading, Language, Mathematics.**
- ◆ **Grade 1: 107 questions/ 2:40**
- ◆ **Grade 2: 142 questions/ 3:00**

What does this tell us about a child's learning?

- ◆ The TerraNova achievement scores indicate how well the child is doing in relation to students across the country.
- ◆ These tests are commonly used to provide valid, reliable, and unbiased information about students' knowledge in various areas.
- ◆ "Standardized" means that the test is always given and scored the same way. The same questions are asked and the same directions are given for each test. Specific time limits are set, and each student's performance may be compared with that of all the other students taking the same test.


How will we know how students performed on the Terra Nova?

- ◆ Information pertaining to students' test results will be provided in an online report. This report gives an overview of how a child is doing in all areas tested when compared to students across the nation.
 - ◆ The scores are returned in National Percentiles The 50th percentile means that a student is on grade level.
 - ◆ “Average scores” follow a bell-shaped curve, with most students falling between the 25th (low average) and 75th (high average) percentiles.
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What types of reports will we receive?

- ◆ *TerraNova 3* reports include the following features:
- ◆ A clear description of the intended purpose and audience
- ◆ An explanation of how to interpret the report
- ◆ Comparative data on how students or groups are performing with respect to other students or groups (locally and nationally)
- ◆ A statement about what the test data suggest
- ◆ Information about how students are performing with respect to instructional objectives
- ◆ State Proficiency reports featuring item-by-item alignments to your state standards

How can I help my students do their best on the test?

- ◆ Explain the purpose of the test to your students. Let them know that the test will be useful in identifying the skills and knowledge that they have already mastered and those they need to learn.
 - ◆ Convey a positive attitude about the test and encourage your students to do their best. Let them know that some of the items on the test may cover material they have not yet studied, and they are not expected to know all of the answers.
 - ◆ Encourage them to try all of the items, to pay careful attention to directions, to use their time efficiently, and to review their work if time allows.
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Next Steps...

- ◆ Introduce your students to the mechanics of test taking and give them an idea of the kinds of questions they will be asked. Share the practice activities you were given a day or two before testing.
- ◆ A Parent Letter will go home within the next two weeks sharing the schedule and suggestions for testing week.
- ◆ Remember: There is no “review” of information for the test, just tips to help students to do their best.
- ◆ Faculty Meeting: April 27, 2015- Grid Student Information.