

TESTING PROGRAM

Readiness Test

Students entering kindergarten are administered a Readiness Test to determine how ready they are to enter Kindergarten.

Achievement Tests

Students in grades K-8 are administered the Terra Nova to measure progress from one year to another. A component of the standardized testing program for grades 2-8 is a cognitive abilities section, which helps compare a student's achievement with other students of the same age, grade, and ability.

Terra Nova is an achievement test, not a proficiency test such as the state administers. Proficiency tests are those in which students have been taught all 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. Terra Nova 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 is current. Terra Nova provides detailed diagnostic information, norm- and criterion-referenced scores, and performance-level data. No test, however extensive, can measure a person's total ability or achievement, or pinpoint it exactly.

Writing Assessment

Each child in grades K-8 participates in a Writing Assessment. This allows students to respond to a writing prompt and to select and organize content, develop a style and follow standard conventions. Students in Grade 6-8 use a technology program during the year to provide additional opportunities for written expression. The program provides guidance on the first and subsequent drafts to allow the students to practice rewriting and learn its value.

Math Benchmark Assessment

Math Benchmark Tests are administered quarterly to students in Grades K-8. These tests determine if the student is making progress towards grade-level expectation.