CTB’s Publishing History for Norm-Referenced Achievement Tests

Two Series

- California Achievement Test (CAT) 1957-1992
- Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS) 1974-1990

Merged into One

- TerraNova™ 1996 - Present

- TerraNova, First Edition (CTBS/5) 2005 Norms
- TerraNova, Second Edition (CAT/6) 2005 Norms
- TerraNova, Third Edition 2007 Norms
- TerraNova Online 2005 Norms

Innovations

- Standards-Based
- Flexible Components & Subtests
- Multiple Choice and Constructed Response items on the same scale
- Engaging 4-color design
- Expanded Online Reporting
- Links to Instruction

Into the Future

Common Core State Standards Alignment

CTB
McGraw-Hill
WHAT IS TERRA NOVA?

• Terra Nova is a norm-reference 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.
**INTRODUCTION:**
WHAT ARE TERRANOVA AND INVIEW?

*TerraNova 3*
- Well-respected, nationally norm-referenced test
- New items *(the only NRT with all new items)*
- 2007 empirical norms *(the most current available)*
- Used by 42% of nation’s NRT users (schools & state programs)

*InView*
- Cognitive abilities test paired with TerraNova
- Normed in 2007 in empirical study with TerraNova 3
- Based on a history of cognitive abilities testing *(3rd edition of the Test of Cognitive Skills)*
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.
Why is ACSI changing to a different achievement test vendor?

ACSI’s goal is to provide a high-quality current assessment that includes helpful and technical resources at a minimal cost. With this goal in mind, ACSI researched testing companies and their products and services, and then made the decision to transition to a test that best fits these criteria.
Why did ACSI choose the TerraNova, Third Edition, for its achievement-test program?

TerraNova 3 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. TerraNova 3 provides detailed diagnostic information, norm- and criterion-referenced scores, and performance-level data.

Schools will have test results available online just a few days after submitting them for scoring. Paper reports will also follow in an extremely timely manner.

Decreased cost for schools is also a major reason ACSI chose TerraNova 3.
Is this a timed test?

Yes.
Will this test also include a Bible assessment subtest?

Yes. The Bible Assessment Subtest has been reviewed and will be included in the TerraNova 3.
Which grade levels will TerraNova 3 test?

The TerraNova tests grade levels K–12.

PACS will only be testing through grade 9 due to the many other achievement tests the 10th-12th graders already take such as the PLAN, EXPLORE, SAT and ACT.
What about TerraNova’s alignment to state and national standards?

TerraNova 3 aligns to state standards and to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) framework. CTB/McGraw-Hill is in the process of creating an alignment study for the Common Core Standards.
Will schools be able to compare the TerraNova 3 test scores to students’ previous scores on the Stanford 10?

Yes. Schools will receive transition norms the first year of testing with TerraNova 3.
Is the OLSAT or a similar ability test available from the CTB/McGraw-Hill?

Also available in the new ACSI testing program are two additional tests designed to measure cognitive skills and abilities: the Primary Test of Cognitive Skills (PTCS), for ages 5–7, and InView for grades 2–12. Schools can use results of these two tests to diagnose possible learning disabilities, to plan placement, and to develop effective instructional programs. When used with TerraNova 3, both tests provide anticipated-achievement scores.
Are the tests all multiple-choice, or will there be writing assessments included?

The ACSI edition of TeraNova 3 will be multiple-choice only.
## Consumable vs. Reusable Materials

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Primary Cognitive Skills (PTCS)

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*Note: PTCS is not timed. When planning administration, allow 30 minutes for each of the four tests.
All multiple choice items
- detailed comparative, instructional information
- efficient, scannable scoring with fast turnaround

Includes subtests: Reading, Language, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

Generates...
- precise norm-referenced achievement scores
- criterion-referenced objective mastery scores
- national performance-level information

PACS will only test K-9 Grades
UPPER & LOWER SCHOOL LEAD PROCTORS

Upper School
6th – Carrie Owens
7th - Julie Evans
8th – Mandy Scoggins
9th – Tracy Hathaway

Lower School
K5- Mandy Eley
1st - Cindy Loveless
2nd - Dawn Crane
3rd - Lavonia Hardman
4th - Esther LaFay
5th - Gail Mauldin
TERRANOVA 3 PLUS TESTS

Short tests
- 20-25 items
- 15-20 minutes each

All multiple-choice items

Detailed measurement of specific foundational skills

Plus Test Content
- Word Analysis (Grades 1-3)
- Vocabulary (Grades 1-12)
- Language Mechanics (Grades 2-12)
- Spelling (Grades 1-12)
- Math Computation (Grades 2-12)
INVIEW TEST BOOKLETS

Six levels

Level 1: Grades 2–3 (Consumable)
Level 2: Grades 4–5
Level 3: Grades 6–7
Level 4: Grades 8–9
Level 5: Grades 10–11
Level 6: Grades 11–12
Primary Test of Cognitive Skills (PTCS) Grades K-1

PTCS subtests are:

- Verbal
- Spatial
- Memory
- Concepts

The four subscales yielded are combined with a child’s age to produce a single Cognitive Skills Index (CSI)
INVIEW CONTENT

- Measures reasoning abilities that are directly related to academic success
- Includes five different 20-item tests
  1. Sequences
  2. Analogies
  3. Quantitative Reasoning
  1. Verbal Reasoning—Words
  2. Verbal Reasoning—Context
  
  Non-Verbal Score
  Verbal Score
WHY DO STUDENTS TAKE THE INVIEW TESTS?

• InView is a test of cognitive ability, or the student’s natural ability to work with words and with visual concepts. It gives a general “IQ” range.

• Both tests together yield an anticipated score that help educators and parent assess a particular child’s progress according to his/her ability.
WHAT DOES ALL THIS TELL ME ABOUT A CHILD’S LEARNING?

• The Terra Nova (achievement) scores indicate how well the child is doing in relation to students across the country.

• The InView (ability) scores indicate the potential the student has for learning certain concepts.
REMEMBER:

No test, however extensive, can measure a person’s total ability or achievement, or pinpoint it exactly. Inview is a group ability test, and can only indicate a general range of intellectual ability.
What’s this “anticipated score”?  
• The anticipated score is the average of what students of the same age, grade and ability level could be expected to achieve. Since it is an average, anticipated scores somewhat higher or lower are still within the acceptable range.
• The anticipated score compared to the achievement score is a general indication of whether the student is meeting his or her potential (is he/she learning as much as he/she should?)
So if the student’s anticipated scores are close to the actual achievement (TN) scores, the student is performing to his or her ability level. He or she is making the kind of progress that could be expected.

Scores that are statistically different from what might be expected are indicated “above” or “below” on the report.
Based on the results of the InView test, coupled with a student's age and grade level, we are given anticipated scores that a student should be expected to achieve on the Terra Nova Test.
The important scores, then, are the anticipated scores and the actual achievement scores.

- It is unreasonable to expect a student to perform at a level that is above his or her ability, so if he/she is achieving around the anticipated level, he/she is doing well.
  – Likewise, if the student’s scores are significantly below the anticipated scores, he/she is not performing up to his/her ability.

Parents and educators need to examine possible causes and remedies for this situation.
What about those national percentile scores? Aren’t scores around 60 pretty bad?!!

• Percentiles are NOT percentages! A percentile score of 60 does not mean that the child got 6 right out of 10 – that would be a percentage.
• Percentiles are **rank order** scores, indicating that, in a national group of 100 children in the same grade, this child is doing better than 59 of them. By definition, the median (average middle score) percentile is 50. “Average” scores follow a bell-shaped curve, with most students falling between the 25th (low average) and 75th (high average) percentiles.
**COMPARISON OF TEST SCORES**

PERCENT OF SCORES UNDER THE NORMAL CURVE

**NORMAL CURVE EQUIVALENTS (NCES)**

**PERCENTILES**

**STANINES**

* The Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) is an equal interval, normalized standard score. In this regard it is similar to the stanine but it is divided into more units. It has a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of 21.06.
If a student scored 58th percentile in math, and his anticipated score is 55, he is achieving according to his ability (perhaps a bit higher than the average of his ability group), and is doing better than 57 out of 100 of his peers across the country.
Questions/ Answers