
TESTING CHOICES AND RESOURCES

If your intentions are evaluation, diagnosis, and prescription for learning; preparation for future testing; providing data for admissions; or scholarship applications and resources for researchers, there are resources available to home schoolers apart from the public schools. Keep records! Chart progress!

Teaching students to evaluate (judge) themselves is an important skill for every area of life (and will be very helpful in college!).

Individualized parent-designed evaluation: Written or oral, you can design quizzes, practice tests, chapter tests, mid-terms and finals, etc.

Standardized curriculum-driven evaluations: Questions at the end of chapters and discussion questions are only two methods provided by many curriculum publishers. Many provide mastery tests to pass before progressing to the next level.

Presentations (book reports, speeches, and science experiments are examples) can provide the evidence of learning achievement, and teach communication skills as well. To enlarge the audience, consider your support group, extended family, neighbors, etc.

Test-taking Strategies <http://www.homeschool.com/articles/TestTaking/default.asp>

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) Resources

Testing <http://www.hslda.org/highschool/testing.asp>

Tests commonly taken in grades 1-10 include the Stanford Achievement Test, Iowa Test of Basic Skills, and the California Achievement Test.

For additional information about which tests to use for your children, see the article "Choosing and Ordering Standardized Tests"

http://www.hslda.org/highschool/docs/Choosing_Ordering_Standardized_Tests.pdf

Vicki Bentley's article <http://www.hslda.org/earlyyears/Testing.asp> contains relevant information on testing for all grade levels. It also mentions that some states require testing, evaluations, or portfolios. Remember, these are not required by New Mexico state law, but the information is still useful.

Additional Information and Resources

Bayside School Services CTB McGraw-Hill's TerraNova and Test of Cognitive Skills (TCS), CAT/5 and TCS <http://www.baysideschoolservices.com/>

Christian Liberty Press (California Achievement Test- CAT) <http://www.christianlibertypress.com/services.htm>

Bob Jones Testing and Evaluation Variety of nationally recognized tests. Testing services approved by test publishers. <http://www.bjupress.com/services/testing/>

Seton Home Study School California Achievement Test (CAT) <http://www.setonhome.org/testing/>

The Sycamore Tree Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills <http://www.mailordercentral.com/sycamoretree/prodinfo.asp?number=CTBS&variation=&item=1&item=1>

Thurber's Educational Assessments (CAT-5) http://www.thurbers.net/thurbers.net/Homeschool_California_Achievement_Testing.html



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College Testing Information Sites .

Both sites have a great deal of information on preparing for and scheduling college tests.

SAT <http://www.collegeboard.com> includes information on **SAT**, **PSAT/NMSQT**, **My College QuickStart™**, **CLEP**

ACT <http://www.act.org>



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