

Homeschool Testing in Minnesota Tests - Commonly Used

CAT/5 and Terra Nova (renamed CAT/6)

- Pencil and paper “fill in the bubble” test for grades K-12
- Tests are timed
- Requires 3-5.5 hours over 2-3 days to complete full battery
- Parents may administer at home, no bachelor’s degree necessary
- Some requirements regarding grades being tested separately
- Comes in abbreviated (“survey”) or complete battery versions
- Testing materials are usually rented and forms returned for scoring within a strict window of time
- Results usually returned a few weeks after test is completed and sent in

Iowa Tests

- Paper and pencil “fill in the bubble” style tests
- Two versions: Iowa Basic Skills Test for grades K-8, Iowa Test of Educational Development for grades 9-12
- Parents may administer at home, but must hold a bachelor’s degree to qualify as tester
- Some levels and subject tests are timed (mathematics)
- Requires 3-6 hours over 2-3 days to test, depending on grade
- Testing materials are usually rented, then returned within a strict window of time along with answer sheets for scoring
- Results usually returned a few weeks after tests are completed and submitted

Stanford Achievement Test

- Parents may administer, but some materials providers require you to hold a bachelor’s degree and apply to become an approved tester. Plan extra time to submit application and be approved.
- Untimed; depending on grade, takes around 3-6 hours over 2-3 days
- Available for K-12
- Spring or fall test window available
- Must designate a test date and then materials are sent for that date and must be returned within a strict window or penalties are accrued

Peabody Individual Achievement Test (PIAT-R or the Peabody)

- Interview style, untimed, oral nationally-normed achievement test for grades K-12.
- Non-bracketed, which means that students continue to answer questions of increasing difficulty until they miss a certain number, rather than being limited to content from their chronological grade. This approach yields true Grade Equivalency scores.
- Administered individually with each student, by a certified tester in person at your home or a public place, such as a library, or via Skype.
- Scores immediately available, including Percentile Rank and Grade Equivalency scores (K.0 - >12.9) in 5 subject areas (General Information, Reading Recognition, Math, Spelling), along with Total Reading & Total Test scores. This meets MN’s homeschool testing requirement.
- Takes about 1- 1 1/2 hours to administer the test and score it.
- Fees vary, usually \$55 - \$65 per test, depending on testing location & a possible mileage fee.

Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement (WJ-III or the Woodcock-Johnson)

- Predominantly an untimed, oral nationally-normed achievement test for children in grades pre-K-12; some writing required for the Math & Spelling sections. Extended versions of the test also include Writing sections and briefly timed sections to measure fluency in Math, Reading & Writing.

- The WJ-III is non-bracketed, allowing students to demonstrate achievement level pre-K.0 - >18.0. This test can be used for any age or when students have topped out the Peabody. An Extended version can be used for application for admission into certain Gifted programs or to get a broader picture of your child's abilities. (It is not an IQ test, nor can it diagnose learning disabilities, on its own.)
- Administered individually with each student, by a certified tester either in person at your home or a public place, such as a library. The Standard version can be administered via Skype.
- The Standard version of the WJ-III Tests of Achievement takes 1 1/2 hours to administer and includes 5 subtests (Academic Knowledge, Reading Recognition, Passage Comprehension, Applied Math and Spelling), which meet MN's requirement for homeschool testing. Additional sections or Extended versions are available for an additional fee and take 2 - 2 1/2 hours to administer.
- Scoring done through a scoring program by the tester. (Scores are not run through a national databank.) Test results will be emailed to you from your tester, within one week of your appointment.
- Fee for administration of the WJ-III Standard is \$75-\$85. Fees for the Extended and Extended Plus versions are \$150-\$200 per student.

For more information about testing in Minnesota, including information about certified Peabody or Woodcock Johnson test administrators, check with our partner site, Homeschool Adventures:

<http://hsadventures.org/homeschooltesting>

Fees for the different paper tests vary widely. Much more information about the tests themselves, along with details about the test administration requirements and pricing can be found online. Here are a few distributors and the tests they offer to get you started:

University of Minnesota Office of Measurement Services Stanford and Iowa

http://oms.umn.edu/mstp/home_school_testing/

Seton Testing Iowa, CAT Survey, Terra Nova Complete

<http://www.setontesting.com/testingproducts/>

Triangle Education Assessments Iowa, Stanford 10, CAT/6 (Terra Nova)

<http://www.triangleeducationassessments.com/home.php?cat=249>

BJU Press Iowa, Stanford

<http://www.bjupress.com/testing/achievement/>

PES Direct CAT/5

<http://www.pesdirect.com/Products/CAT5.html>

Christian Liberty Online version of CAT for grades 2-12 (uses an earlier version of the CAT - see FAQs on their website for more details)

<http://www.shopchristianliberty.com/californiaachievementtestonlineversion/>

Brewer Testing Services Online version of Stanford 10 for grades 3-12

<http://www.brewertesting.com/Stanford.html>

*Please note that inclusion on this list does not indicate an endorsement of any company or test by MHA.