

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

- Interview-style oral achievement test for grades K-12
- Non-bracketed, meaning that students continue answering questions until they miss a certain number, rather than being limited to a certain set of questions for each grade. Allows additional assessment of student’s ability beyond or below a grade level.
- Administered individually with each student, by a licensed tester in person, either in your home or public place such as a library
- Scores immediately available, including percentile ranking and grade equivalency (K-12) in five subject areas plus in total reading and total test scores
- Takes about 1 - 1 ½ hours per child to test
- Fees vary, usually \$55-\$65 per test depending on testing location

Woodcock-Johnson

- Predominantly oral achievement test for grades K-12; some writing required for mathematics portion and for optional writing sample portion.
- Non-bracketed. W-J scoring goes beyond high school level, and allows students who have “topped out” on other tests to show continued ability and knowledge.
- Administered individually with each student, by a licensed tester in person, either in your home or public place such as a library.
- Standard version of W-J offers five subtests, which meet MN requirements for homeschool testing; additional optional subtests available, usually for an additional fee.
- Scoring not immediate, but usually received via email or mail within a week or two of testing.
- Fees vary depending on length of time required and number of optional subtests added, but the fee for administration of the standard Woodcock-Johnson is around \$75-\$85 depending on location.

More information about testing in Minnesota, including information about licensed Peabody or Woodcock-Johnson test administrators, check with our partner site, Homeschool Adventures. (<http://hsadventures.org/homeschool-testing>)

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/testing-products/>

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/california-achievement-test-online-version/>

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.

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