

ASSESSMENT TOOLS

TERRA NOVA, Second Edition (CAT 6)

This is a standardized multiple-choice test that provides norm-referenced achievement scores in Reading, Language, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students receive a National Percentile (NP) score with 50 being average. A score of 75 means that a student scored higher than 75% of the students in the norm sample.

The CAT is given in grades 3-8 in mid-April and in grade 2 in mid-October. It provides individual student scores as well as a group summary. The results can be used for individual student planning and for analysis of whole group progress.

NEW ENGLAND COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (NECAP)

This test is used by Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Vermont to comply with the No Child Left Behind legislation. Students in grades 3-8 are tested in Reading and Math with an additional Writing test in grades 5 and 8. Science will be added to grades 4 and 8 next year. The NECAP contains a mix of multiple-choice and open-response items. Student performance is described in four levels: Proficient with Distinction, Proficient, Partially Proficient, and Substantially Below Proficient.

The NECAP is given to grades 3-8 in early October. The Science test is planned for early May. The results are used to determine how well the students of each school are mastering the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs). Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) is determined for each school as well as for any subgroup with more than 11 students. Schools that do not meet the AYP targets are classified as in need of improvement. They have to develop an action plan.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

This is a federal test given to a sample of students in grades 4 and 8 each year to assess the academic progress of students at a national level in Reading and Math. RES and RJH have been permanently selected to participate every other year. This is a short test (60 – 90 minutes). There are no student or school results, only state results. These are published in a report called The Nation's Report Card. New Hampshire is consistently among the top states in the country.