

Testing Policies

HINTS STANDARDIZED TESTING POLICY

N.C. state law requires that homeschools with children ages seven through fifteen be listed with the N.C. Division of Non-Public Education (DNPE). Any student listed with DNPE as part of a homeschool is required to take a nationally standardized achievement test yearly. If your students are younger than 7, or older than 16 and not desiring to drive, they are not required to be listed on the "Notice of Intent" form and therefore are not required to be tested.

As a support group, we are committed to providing annual standardized testing opportunities in the spring for those students required to be tested by N.C. law. The following information is provided for your consideration before listing your child on your "notice of intent" to homeschool form. Keep in mind that each student who is registered is required to take a test during that year (July-June). At this time, the PSAT and SAT do not meet N.C. testing requirements. However, the ACT does meet N.C. requirements.

Restrictions and Recommendations

1. All copyrights and security of the test will be protected.
2. The test results will be released only to authorized persons and in a form in keeping with accepted principles for test interpretation.
3. The Terra Nova (CTBS-Ed. 1) will be offered for grades K-12 in both a group and individual format.
4. Those pupils whose seventh birthday occurs after December 31st of current year will be offered the Kindergarten test only.
5. HINTS will not provide testing for any child who does not turn 7 by May 31 of the current year.
6. Registration and payment for both Group Testing and Individual Testing must be **postmarked** by January 31. The testing committee has deadlines to which they must adhere, so no exceptions can be made. Registrations will be included with the January newsletter. No refunds will be made after the registration deadline.
7. For those turning seven between September 1 and December 31 we strongly recommend the pupil take the Kindergarten non-reader test. The first grade test should be taken only if the child has excellent reading skills by January 1.
8. If in doubt about the level of test to order for your child, it is the recommendation of the Board that you order the lower level.

Guidelines will vary for Individual Testing and Group Testing provided through HINTS. The following information will help you choose which testing situation will best benefit your child.

Group Testing

The test will be administered in a group setting and tests for all students will be administered on one day. The test usually takes about 3 hours. Some children (especially younger children) may find group testing stressful. Although there are breaks between tests it will be a fairly long morning requiring concentration and focus. We would encourage you to evaluate your child and determine whether testing with a group or participating in individual testing will give you the best evaluation of their abilities. Only the Terra Nova **Survey** in math, language, and reading, and the **Plus** tests in spelling will be administered. These tests satisfy the NC statutes. Group testing requires a cooperative effort in order for it to be successful; therefore, everyone who registers a child for group testing will be expected to assist on the day of testing.

Individual Testing

Individual testing allows you the flexibility to choose the time & place of testing. Individual testing allows the option to use the additional **Survey** tests for science and social studies and the **Plus** tests in math, language, and reading that group testing does not offer. A security deposit will be required to check out testing supplies for each test. You must also sign a statement agreeing to protect the integrity of the test. Although administering a test is not difficult, some people find testing their own child somewhat challenging. You may want to ask a trusted friend or relative to administer your child's test.