

Frequently Asked Questions - Triangle Education Assessments

Debbie Thompson, director@triangleed.com

Triangle Education Assessments, www.TriangleEd.com, (877)-843-8837

Triangle Education Assessments is the nation's one-stop-shop for homeschool tests and carries the most commonly administered nationally standardized achievement tests. All of their achievement tests meet NC homeschool law. You may forward this document to others but must do so in its entirety.

1. What are my state's laws and why should my child be tested?

In North Carolina, it is the law to test your student annually. Other state laws can be found at www.hslda.org. Standardized tests can affirm both your child's learning progress and your teaching ability. An objective evaluation can provide confirmation of your success, and encourage both teacher and student. Standardized tests might also point out weaknesses that you may not have noticed, especially in light of national standards.

2. What are my testing options with Triangle Education Assessments?

We offer:

Achievement Tests

- The Iowa Tests (IBTS and ITED) for grades K-12 in complete battery format
- The TerraNova/CAT6 (Complete Plus Gr K-12 and Survey Plus Gr 2-12 versions)
- The Stanford-10 (paper version Gr K-12 and online format on your computer Gr 3-12)
- The Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement for pre-K-Adult (The WIIP Report of Remedial Instructional Interventions and Strategies is offered along with the WJ when a student is working below average)
- The BASI for grades 3-12 (on our computers, only takes 2 hours, immediate report)
- Brigance for special needs students with a developmental age of 7 or below

Cognitive Tests

- The CogAT for grades 2-12 (paper version) for learning styles and giftedness program eligibility
- The OLSAT (paper version for grades 2-12 and online format on your computer for grades 4-12) for learning styles and giftedness program eligibility

We also offer:

- Full-scope IQ and LD testing with a licensed psychologist (See # 12 below)
- Career Testing: Myers Brigg, Strong, Interest Explorer (See # 13 below)
- Consultations, speaking, seminars

3. What differences exist between the achievement test formats?

The Iowa, Stanford-10 (paper and online), TerraNova, and BASI tests are multiple-choice tests. The Iowa, Stanford-10, and TerraNova come in paper versions that can be sent to your location to be administered. The BASI is done on

our computer. The Stanford-10 Online is delivered online remotely at your location on your computer. The Woodcock-Johnson is oral and paper/pencil format, and is administered at our facility by one of our trained administrators. The Brigance is used more as a life-skills checklist for those developmentally 7 years old or younger.

4. Who can give the achievement tests as per the test publishers?

You must refer to your state laws and the test publishers have rules on who can give their tests.

- Woodcock-Johnson III can only be given by a specially trained administrator.
- Iowa can only be ordered by homeschoolers or small private schools and requires the administrator to have at least a Bachelor's degree.
- TerraNova can be ordered by home schools, small private schools, or public schools and can be given by parents without degrees.
- Stanford-10 (paper and online) can only be purchased by homeschoolers or small private schools. The paper test requires the administrator to have at least a Bachelor's degree and some training. The online test does not require a Bachelor's degree.
- BASI is given on our computers in our facility.

5. Which test should I choose?

For more information on choosing the best achievement test for your student, please read the article "[Common Core Aligned Tests and How to Choose an Achievement Test](#)" found on www.TriangleEd.com under the Resources tab by clicking on the link titled "Achievement Test Comparisons"). For a visual that also walks you through the steps of choosing a test please refer to the infographic titled "[How to Choose an Achievement Test](#)" found on our website under the Resources tab.

To see examples of score reports, visit our website www.TriangleEd.com.

Children that are not reading as well as peers, working above or below typical grades, or who have attention difficulties, might fare better with the Woodcock-Johnson test since it goes as low and as high as needed, and it is mostly read to the student, and students can take breaks as needed. Children with slower processing speeds might fare better with the Stanford or Woodcock-Johnson tests since they are mostly untimed.

6. How do I choose the grade level of the test?

Most of the time it is prudent to choose the test level based on the grade of the child's curriculum. If the child is working above or below grade level in a majority of subjects, then you might choose to use a test based on the average of the various grade levels of their curriculum to get the most accurate and helpful results. In order to make the most practical use of the scores, you should not test above your child's reading level. In NC, parents choose the grade level of the test for their children.

7. Why should I choose the Woodcock Johnson III Achievement Test?

Woodcock-Johnson III: One significant difference between the WJ III and multiple choice tests is that WJ III administrators give students questions up to any grade level that they can accomplish correctly within certain ranges

and it goes as low as the student needs to go. We give parents a consultation after the test session. The Woodcock-Johnson III is ideal for students who:

- Have previous test scores that are extremely high or low for grade level, or that do not reflect true performance.
- Are reading very well or very poorly for his or her age.
- Appear to be struggling in certain areas and a more thorough evaluation for learning disabilities is desired.
- Have parents who feel the need for outside input regarding their child's achievement level and/or curriculum choices.
- Are easily distracted and would not do well in a classroom or on a multiple choice test.
- Need test results quickly. (We generate the report immediately after testing.)
- Need additional instructional strategies or recommendations.
- Will need additional testing for learning glitches.

8. I am ordering tests for multiple students. What grades can be tested together according to the test publishers?

- Iowa: Grades 3-8 may be administered together and 9-12 may be administered together
- TerraNova: Grades 4-5 may be administered together, grades 6-8 may be administered together, and grades 9-12 may be administered together
- Stanford-10 (paper): Grades 5-8 may be administered together for most of the test and grades 9-12 may be administered together
- Stanford-10 (online): All grades (Spring 3-12) may be administered together
- BASI: All grades (3-12) are permitted to test at the same time

9. What do the statistics on the test reports mean?

For more information on understanding the report terminology and statistics, please refer to article titled ["Understanding Standardized Testing Statistics"](#) which is on www.TriangleEd.com, under the Resources tab.

10. How do I order a test?

Because our various achievement and cognitive tests are formatted differently, the ordering process differs slightly. Listed below are the steps for ordering whichever test you may choose.

- To order Iowa, CogAT, Stanford, or OLSAT paper tests:
 1. Choose a testing day. (Note: Please place orders 3 weeks in advance of the test date desired. For larger group orders, orders must be placed 6 weeks in advance.)
 2. Purchase the assessment you have decided to use, either through our online store found at www.TriangleEd.com or by calling our office at 919-387-7004.
 3. Request handscoring if you need the results rushed. You will have the results in 2 weeks or less.
 4. Complete both the [School Verification form](#) and the [Test Administrator form](#) found on our website. (Note: the School Verification form must be completed annually but the Test Administrator form only

needs to be completed once. THE PUBLISHER REQUIRES THESE FORMS PRIOR TO YOUR ORDER BEING SHIPPED.)

5. Once you receive the test(s), two weeks are allowed for testing before it is required that the materials are mailed back to us.
 6. Upon our receipt of the testing materials, scoring requires 4 to 6 weeks for most tests. Score reports are usually sent to you in a PDF format via email unless otherwise requested.
- To order the Stanford-10 and/or OLSAT Remote:
 1. Purchase the assessment(s) through our online store at www.TriangleEd.com or over the phone at 919-387-7004.
 2. Complete the [School Verification form](#) found on our website. (Note: the Test Administrator form is not required for these assessments as Triangle Education Assessments is considered the test administrator.)
 3. Complete the registration form for the assessment(s) you have purchased. (The form is on our website, or click [here](#) for the Stanford-10 Remote form or [here](#) for the OLSAT Remote form.)
 4. Call or email us to schedule testing dates. (Note: the test sessions for the Stanford-10 and OLSAT Online are completed over the course of two days, preferably Monday-Wednesday, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm EST. It is strongly advised that the test days be two consecutive days.)
 5. Upon completion of the assessment(s), a score report will be generated and sent to you via email within 72 business hours.
 - To order tests to be administered at Triangle Education Assessments (WJ, BASI, Stanford-10 Online, or OLSAT Online)
 1. Call us at 919-387-7004 to check availability and testing dates.
 2. Purchase the assessment(s) via our online store or over the phone.
 3. Complete the corresponding registration form which will be sent to you after ordering.
 4. Score reports for these assessments are processed immediately and given to you before leaving our office.
 5. To have us administer paper tests for you, please call us for availability.

11. What are some honor programs available to homeschools? (Subject to change)

- **Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP)** – www.tip.duke.edu
- **Davidson Institute** – www.ditd.org
- **National Honor Society**

12. What other tests might homeschoolers consider for early college credit and admissions?

College Credit:

- CLEP: www.collegeboard.org, 33 exams
- DSST: www.getcollegecredit.org, 38 exams
- Nocti: www.nocti.org

College Admissions or Scholarships:

- ACT: www.act.org - this is also allowed as the achievement test for NC
- PSAT, NMSQT: www.nationalmerit.org, testing October of junior year counts for scholarships.
- Scholastic Aptitude Test: www.collegeboard.org

13. What IQ tests can Triangle Education Assessments help me get for my child?

- WJIII Cognitive: 20 tests but only 7 are needed for IQ and takes about 45 minutes; must be performed under licensed professional
- WISC, Wechsler and others: Given by a licensed professional as part of psycho-educational testing. This is usually done to assess for learning differences and glitches or for entry into gifted programs like Governor's School.
- The CogAT and OSLAT tests are also available through TEA for homeschool and private school use. These tests are often used to assess giftedness and/or how a child learns.

14. What Career or Personality Assessments does Triangle Education Assessments offer?

- Interest Explorer: Must be done in conjunction with the Iowa test.
- Strong Interest Inventory: The world's most commonly used career tool that matches interests with occupations; best when used with the Myers-Briggs Type Inventory.
- Myers-Briggs Type Inventory: Helps you discover personality traits that would be best suited for different types of work; best when used with the Strong Interest Inventory.

15. What other websites on Learning Inventories might interest me?

- Find Your Strengths – <http://literacyworks.org/mi/assessment/findyourstrengths.html>
- Learning Style Inventory – www.rrcc-online.com/~psych/LSInventory.html
- Abiator's Online Learning Styles – www.berghuis.co.nz/abiator/lsl/lstest1.html
- Assessing Your Learning Style – www.agelesslearner.com/assess/learningstyle.html
- VARK: A Guide to Learning Styles – www.vark-learn.com/english/page.asp?p=younger

This information may be copied and distributed free of charge to individuals and homeschool groups so long as it is copied in its entirety, including credits.