

Assessment Information

Several nationally norm-referenced standardized assessments, in addition to the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA), are available for purchase and can be used by homeschooling families. These assessments are designed to measure academic achievement and provide norm-referenced data, making them useful tools for gauging student performance relative to a national sample. Here are some options:

1. Stanford 10 (SAT-10) – This is a popular choice among homeschoolers. It provides comprehensive coverage across subjects and is often accepted for state documentation purposes. Although Pearson no longer updates it, some vendors still offer it in print.
2. Iowa Assessments – Developed by Riverside Insights, the Iowa Assessments are one of the most widely used norm-referenced tests in the country. They are available in multiple forms and levels and are commonly accepted by states for homeschool reporting.
3. TerraNova, Third Edition (CAT/6) – Produced by Data Recognition Corporation, TerraNova is widely used by private schools and homeschoolers alike. It includes both norm-referenced and criterion-referenced components.
4. California Achievement Test (CAT/5) – An older but still widely used test. It is cost-effective and available in both online and print formats from vendors such as Seton Testing Services and Christian Liberty Press.
5. Measures of Academic Project (MAP) Growth (by Northwest Evaluation Association) – A computer-adaptive test gaining popularity among some homeschoolers through approved vendors. It provides detailed instructional data and is available in multiple versions, including one aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Most of the assessments listed above are not explicitly aligned to the CCSS, as they were either developed before the standards were introduced or were designed to be more broadly applicable across states. Here's how they compare:

1. MAP Growth is the only assessment on this list that offers a version specifically aligned to the CCSS. It is a strong option for parents seeking results that closely align with CCSS-based curricula.
2. Iowa Assessments and TerraNova include content that overlaps with the CCSS, but were not originally built to target those standards. Some alignment guides exist, but they are not comprehensive.
3. Stanford 10 and CAT/5 are not aligned to the CCSS and are based on older curricular models.

The SBA or MAP Growth (CCSS version) would be the most appropriate assessments for CCSS-aligned curricula.