

POLICY ON TESTING OF HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), Chapter 392.065 mandates that the Board of Trustees of the county school district shall require proof of reasonable educational progress as a condition for renewing the grant of excuse from compulsory attendance at public school.

Home schooled students must be tested by the school district as part of its annual program of testing students throughout the school district. The school district currently uses the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills, Fourth Edition (CTBS/4), to test students proficiency in grades two, four, six, and eight. This test is administered in the spring of the school year in each school in the district. Home schooled students will be required to take the CTBS/4 or CTBS, Survey in reading, language, and mathematics in grades two through eight.

Home schooled students in grades two through eight will be given two options for completing the appropriate level of the CTBS/4, as follows:

1. A parent or guardian may bring their home schooled student to the school he or she would attend if enrolled to participate in the test with other students of the same grade or age; or
2. A parent or guardian may have their home schooled student participate in an alternative test arrangement using the CTBS/4 Survey, as approved by the school district administration.

Alternative test arrangements must meet the following conditions: (a) the test administrator must be qualified to administer norm-referenced group tests by virtue of their training, experience, and licensure¹ and must be approved by the school district administration²; (b) the school district will furnish all test materials; (c) the test administrator must administer the test in the manner prescribed by the test publisher; (d) the test must be administered within a timeline specified by the school district; and (e) the test administrator will be responsible to ensure that completed tests are submitted to the school district by the date due to be processed for scoring.

A parent or guardian of a home schooled student may serve as a proctor for the examination (i.e., they may help provide students with appropriate materials such as pencils, scratch paper, etc.) or they may observe the testing process in either of the test administration settings which are provided as options in this policy. However, they may not interfere with the administration of the test, provide assistance to students, or interpret written or verbal instructions provided as part of the examination.

¹ Individuals who have not previously administered the currently approved test must read the test administration manual provided by the test publisher and provide a written statement certifying their understanding and competence to administer the test.

² Individuals whose qualifications are not known to district administration may be required to submit documentation adequate to establish their eligibility to administer norm-referenced group achievement tests.

Additional costs associated with the services of an alternative test administrator and rental of a testing location will be the responsibility of the parents or guardians of home schooled students who elect this alternative method.

The school district will be responsible for costs associated with test materials and scoring services.

Provisions will be made for students in grades two through eight to take the appropriate level of the CTBS/4 at a school location or they may elect to take this test through the alternative option described above.

To demonstrate educational progress in grades nine, ten, eleven, or twelve, students are not required to take the high school proficiency test, although they may do so if they wish. Students may elect to submit report cards, transcripts or alternative test results from their correspondence school, or samples of work or other test results if they have not enrolled in a correspondence school. Parents of home schooled students electing to take any of the following examinations: the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), the American College Test (ACT), or the Nevada Proficiency Examination (NPE). Parents of home schooled students who elect this option are responsible to ensure that these test results are reported to the appropriate school district official.

When annual test results are available, the school district will be responsible to notify the parents or guardians of home schooled students of these results. When a home schooling student fails to achieve a composite score above the third stanine in the areas of total language, total math, or total reading on the CTBS/4, or CTBS/4, Survey, the school district will send a letter to the parent or guardian of the home schooled student indicating the areas of needed improvement. Parents will be asked to submit a written plan to an appropriate school official which outlines the steps that will be taken to improve the student's performance in the areas of needed improvement.

If a home schooled student fails to achieve a composite score above the third stanine and his or her parent or guardian believes that the results are not accurate, they may have their child re-tested by the school district or they may, at their own expense, secure an independent evaluation, administered by an appropriately credentialed professional. The school district will give consideration to these additional measures when determining the home schooled student's performance. The school district will also consider other factors, such as past performance or the presence of a disability³ that would require accommodations in test administration, test interpretation, or the testing environment.

If, after at least nine months of incorporating remedial measures, the pupil's composite score remains at or below the third stanine and the score has improved less than five percentile points, the board of trustees will require the parent to obtain assistance from a consultant who possesses a teaching license issued by the superintendent of public instruction for the grade level to be taught. If a consultant is unavailable, the staff of the school district may assist the parents upon their request.

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³ A student will be considered disabled if they meet the criteria established in federal law under the Individuals With Disabilities Act (20 USC § 1400, et. seq.) or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC §§ 706[8], 794, 794a, 794b).