

Research Brief National Assessments

Question: National diagnostic and placement tests that measure students' strengths and weaknesses so that they can recognize their strengths and improve their weaknesses.

Summary of Findings: In the information that was available, some schools and districts described using placement tests, however, for the most part, the names of the specific tests were not given. In states such as California and Florida, the tests that are used have been designed specifically to meet the given state's standards.

There are numerous tests that are available for purchase. The school and/or district should determine what specific information they want and need from a test or tests, then investigate potential ones through the test publishers (Rudner, L. M., 1993).

Major Findings and Conclusions:

Reviews for many of the tests listed below are available to purchase through the Buros Institute, <http://buros.unl.edu/buros/jsp/search.jsp>

1. Academic Competence Evaluation Scales: This measures skills in the areas of reading/language arts, math, critical thinking, motivation, study skills, and interpersonal skills.
2. Kaufman Functional Academic Skills Test: This measures reading and math proficiency.
3. Kuhlmann-Anderson Tests, Eighth Edition: This measures academic potential.
4. Multilevel Academic Survey Test: This is a measure of reading and math skills.
5. Perception of Ability Scale for Students: The students respond to how they learn and achieve academically.
6. Closed High School Placement Test: This test cognitive and basic skills and should be used with freshman.
7. High School Placement-Open Edition: This also tests cognitive and basic skills for freshman course placement.
8. Tests of Achievement and Proficiency, forms K, L, & M: This measures a student's progress through high school.
9. Academic Aptitude Test: Non-Verbal Intelligence: This tests abstract thinking in math, engineering, and physical sciences.

10. Academic Aptitude Test: Verbal Intelligence: This tests general academic skills.
11. PLAN: This helps students plan for their future work in English, math, reading, and scientific reasoning.
12. ACCUPLACER: This tests reading, sentence skills, arithmetic, and elementary algebra.
13. Diagnostic Screening Test: Achievement (DSTA): This tests achievement in science, social studies, literature, and the arts.
14. Hammill Multiability Achievement Test: This looks at overall student achievement in reading, writing, and math facts.
15. Learning Style Profile: This profile helps with the placement of students in classes based upon how they learn.

Online Resources:

- California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

Samples from the mathematics portion of the state test as well as the specific strands that are covered in the test are provided.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/>

- California Standards Test Blueprints

This is a list of the state's standards that can be downloaded in language arts, mathematics, history-social science and science.

<http://star.cde.ca.gov/>

- Pre GED 2001

This is a diagnostic inventory for high school students in the major content areas who are reading between the 5th and 8th grade levels. This provides information about the strengths and weaknesses of this program.

<http://www.wcs.k12.va.us/programs/psoft/mcs1preged2001.htm>

- Test Selection Tips

This is an overview of what characteristics and qualities to look for when selecting tests.

<http://www.ericdigests.org/1996-1/test.htm>

- Buros Test Reviews Online

This site has the names of approximately 400 tests listed. A very brief description of each test, the date(s) it was reviewed, and publisher information is given. Most of the tests have been reviewed and those reviews are available for purchase.

<http://buros.unl.edu/buros/jsp/search.jsp>

Tests (all described in the summary)

- Diagnostic Testing-ACCUPLACER
<http://www.clovis.edu/downloads/accuplacer.pdf>
- Closed High School Placement Test
<http://www.ststesting.com/achieve.html>
- Diagnostic Screening Test: Achievement
<http://www.slosson.com/index2.ivnu>
- Hammill Multiability Achievement Test
http://www.PROEDINC.com/store/index.php?mode=product_detail&id=8650
- High School Placement Test-Open Edition
<http://www.ststesting.com/achieve.html>
- Kaufman functional Academic Skills Test
<http://www.agsnet.com/group.asp?nGroupInfoID=a3540>
- Kuhlmann-Anderson Tests, Eighth Edition
<http://www.ststesting.com/achieve.html>
- Learning Style Profile
P.O. Box 3250 1904 Association Dr. Restin, VA 2209-1598
- Perception of Ability Scale for Students
<http://www.wpspublish.com/>
- PLAN
<http://www.act.org/plan/index.html>
- Tests of Achievement and Proficiency, Forms K, L, & M
<http://www.riverpub.com/products/group/tap/home.html>
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