



## **Standardized Achievement Test Characteristics Checklist**

Today's demands for reform and accountability mean the choice of an evaluation instrument is more important than ever. A carefully defined and implemented assessment program provides a basis for evaluating and improving the effectiveness of curriculum, instructional programs, teaching, and learning.

TerraNova® College and Career-Ready Edition bring educators a breakthrough assessment solution that promotes new heights in student achievement and learning. The assessment solution features 2017/2018 norms and new design and content aligned to the College and Career Ready Standards (CCRS) — while continuing to provide the same technical excellence and accuracy that are the hallmarks of the TerraNova family of assessments.

There are general elements in the evaluation of a standardized achievement test that should be considered before a more specific review is undertaken. We've included a helpful checklist below, along with our contact information, to help educators determine if publishers are meeting today's priorities for assessment.

<b>Publisher Quality</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b>TerraNova 3</b>	<b>TerraNova CCR Edition</b>
The publisher owns an established track record of success in developing research based, highly accurate testing instruments.	You can rely on assessment results to inform instructional decision making.	•	•
The publisher owns a reputation for combining innovation with experience in research-based test development.	You receive state-of-the-art assessment, along with <i>proven</i> psychometric excellence.	•	•
The publisher supports tests with next generation technical standards for scoring, administration, reporting, and use of test results.	You have flexibility in your testing program.	•	•
Flexibility and control are made possible by ownership and operation of full service, in-house publishing and scoring operations.	You can turn to one publisher for all your assessment needs; phases of your program are well integrated.	•	•

<b>Norms</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b>TerraNova 3</b>	<b>TerraNova CCR Edition</b>
The publisher is a leader in the industry with successful experience in developing norms for achievement tests.	You are assured the norming process is technically sound.	•	•
2017/2018 national norms with content aligned to the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS).	You can rely on data to make important comparisons across groups of students.	•	•
The test compares student performance on objectives against a nationally inclusive and representative sample.	You know the percentage of all students who demonstrated mastery of each of the objectives.	•	•
Norming sample is based on a representative national sample, not on customer or local data.	Assures that your performance data reflect true national achievement for purposes of measuring or comparing student achievement.	•	•

<b>Norms</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b><i>TerraNova 3</i></b>	<b><i>TerraNova CCR Edition</i></b>
Norming sample accurately represents national student population. This includes students using accommodations.	Assures your data include all major segments of national student population.	•	•
There is adequate representation of nonpublic as well as public schools.	Your normative results are not biased toward public or non-public school students.	•	•
Interpolated norms are available when testing is not done during the norming dates.	You can develop your testing schedule to best meet your needs and still be assured of accurate results.	•	•

<b>Administration</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b><i>TerraNova 3</i></b>	<b><i>TerraNova CCR Edition</i></b>
A shorter edition is available for use when testing time is of concern. Various subtests, different item	You have maximum flexibility in designing your own testing program.	•	•
Various subtests, different item types, and content types are available.	You can augment existing assessment programs and time constraints.	•	•
Online versions of the test are available with reports that are easily accessible	Digital solutions make administration quick and easy.	•	

<b>Test Construction and Development</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b><i>TerraNova 3</i></b>	<b><i>TerraNova CCR Edition</i></b>
The publisher provides a clear and comprehensive description of the process that was followed in determining the test content.	You can determine exactly how the test was developed to analyze construct validity.	•	•
The publisher developed and worked from a test blueprint and objective structure of significant core concepts and skills.	You are assured that the test measures important knowledge and skills and not trivial material.	•	•
Draft materials were reviewed by classroom teachers and curriculum specialists.	You are assured that the test reflects what is being taught in the classroom.	•	•

<b>Items</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b><i>TerraNova 3</i></b>	<b><i>TerraNova CCR Edition</i></b>
Test provides full range of item formats, including selected- and extended response items.	Accurately measures higher-order and discrete thinking skills.	•	•
Test items are carefully crafted for each grade level and measure students using age-appropriate content.	Your students will remain engaged throughout the testing process.	•	•
Up-to-date test items reflect an increased depth of knowledge and test critical higher-order thinking skills.	You have the resources to meet the educational needs of all students.	•	•
Test items ensure accurate measurement of individual students regardless of their learning level.	Teaching efforts can be more targeted, ensuring success for all students.	•	•
Test items do not appear in more than one level of the test. No item overlap.	Eliminates your concern about test and re-test effects.	•	•
All reported objectives are measured by at least four items.	Allows for valid and reliable inferences to be made about objective mastery.	•	•
Test items are grouped by themes to provide a context for the questions.	Your students are more engaged in the testing process and respond to more “real-world” situations.	•	•

<b>Content</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b><i>TerraNova 3</i></b>	<b><i>TerraNova CCR Edition</i></b>
Test content aligns to state and national standards. This includes new common core standards.	Your instructional decisions are made based on results that are relevant to common goals in your school or district.	•	•
Test booklets feature contemporary content specifically designed to engage and motivate students, and minimize test anxiety.	Ensures your students have a positive testing experience and you have more confidence in the results.	•	•
Content is presented in age appropriate formats.	Your students are tested with materials in formats that support successful performance for all ages.	•	•

Content	Importance	TerraNova 3	TerraNova CCR Edition
Content coverage is carefully targeted for each grade level of the test.	Your students are being measured on appropriate content across the grades.	•	•
The Reading and Language subtests respond to the theory of developmentally appropriate practice, including a literacy continuum for the early grades.	Your students will be tested at a level that is appropriate for their skills.	•	•
The Reading and Language subtests use authentic literature to provide high quality test items.	Encourages best performance with reading material designed to engage students.	•	•
The objective categories for the Mathematics subtest reflect the principles and standards of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).	Your students will be assessed on what a consensus of mathematics professionals believes are important objectives.	•	•
The Spanish test ( <i>SUPERA</i> <sup>™</sup> ) features high-quality, authentic content, and is not a translation of the English edition.	Your students will read high-quality material originally written in Spanish to more appropriately measure their knowledge.	•	•
The Science subtest acknowledges the importance of both content and process.	Determines your students' competencies in both important areas of science.	•	•
The Science subtest reflects NSE standards and Project 2061 benchmarks.	Assesses your students on what science professionals identify as important.	•	•
The Social Studies subtest emphasizes the interrelationships of social studies disciplines and assesses students on content that reflects current best practice in the social studies content areas.	Your students will be tested using content that reflects best practices in the field.	•	•

<b>Reliability &amp; Validity</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b>TerraNova 3</b>	<b>TerraNova CCR Edition</b>
There is a match between the test content and current curricula and instructional practices.	Assures your students are assessed on what's being taught—a fundamental aspect of validity.	•	•
The procedures used to set performance levels are described in detail.	You can have confidence that the process was technically sound.	•	•
A clear statement of rationale, with annotated illustrative items, is provided for each content area.	You are assured that the test content measures what it is intended to measure.	•	•
An indication of the percentage of students in the norming sample is provided to show who demonstrated mastery of each of the objectives.	You can compare student performance on objectives with the most recent national sample.	•	•
A description of the item parameters is taken into account in the selection process.	Assures important item statistics are considered in item selection.	•	•
Inter correlation coefficients with a related test of academic aptitude are provided.	Determines if anticipated achievement scores are highly correlated with actual achievement.	•	•
A bias reduction procedure considers student as well as expert comments.	Ensures items are checked for trend biased language (slang) as well as ethnic and gender biases.	•	•
A data-based bias procedure is used, such as Differential Item Functioning (DIF).	Ensures that no group of students is unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged due to biased content.	•	•
Reliability coefficients are reported.	Determines whether the test features adequate reliability for its intended purpose.	•	•
For making individual interpretations, reliability coefficients are generally in the high 80s and low 90s for area and battery totals.	You are assured your students' scores are accurate.	•	•
Score-specific Standard Errors of Measurement (SEMs) are reported for every possible score.	Your teachers, students, parents and administrators will not over-interpret the results.	•	•
SEMs are displayed graphically to clearly show the range within which the test gives the best measurement.	You can determine whether the test is appropriately difficult for your students.	•	•

<b>Reporting</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b><i>TerraNova 3</i></b>	<b><i>TerraNova CCR Edition</i></b>
Group selected reports (e.g., Title I, males vs. females) are available.	Allows you to meet local, state, and federal reporting requirements.	•	•
Results are available to export to a school or district data management system.	Provides additional flexibility in creating reports needed by individual educators.	•	•
Premiere reports are available— including multilingual and graphically enhanced versions.	Presents data in a variety of meaningful contexts and recommends instructional support and targeted practice for both parents and educators.	•	•
Parents have access to additional helpful resources, like a Home Report in English and Spanish, to help them engage in their student’s learning.	Provides home resources to help children learn and grow.	•	•
Reports are available online through a helpful data management system.	Educators have secure, online access to data 24 hours per day. Student, class, and school results can be easily filtered to help identify learning trends, and highlight areas requiring focus for ongoing instructional planning.	•	•

<b>Scoring, Scaling, Equating, and Standard-Setting</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b><i>TerraNova 3</i></b>	<b><i>TerraNova CCR Edition</i></b>
The test battery meets the needs of highly accurate norm-referenced scores and a full complement of objective mastery scores.	You can obtain both comparative information and information for improving classroom instruction.	•	•
Two-parameter partial-credit Item Response Theory (IRT) scoring is used for constructed-response items.	Accurately represents student performance on different item types.	•	•

Scoring, Scaling, Equating, and Standard-Setting	Importance	<i>TerraNova 3</i>	<i>TerraNova CCR Edition</i>
Three-parameter logistical IRT scoring is used for selected-response items.	Provides you with the most reliable test information available for individual students.	•	•
The procedures used in setting student performance levels are clearly described with descriptions of the knowledge and skills associated with each performance level provided.	You are able to determine if the standards for each level are technically defensible.	•	•
Test provides cut scores for at least five performance levels.	Provides greater detail about student progress and identifies student growth to a more discrete level.	•	•
The performance levels give schools the information needed to comply with Title I requirements.	You will be in compliance with Title I regulations.	•	•
A wide variety of scores are available, including norm-referenced scores, criterion-referenced scores, and performance levels.	Delivers test results to meet a wide variety of purposes.	•	•
Scores can be generated using IRT item-pattern or number-correct scoring methods.	Your results can be based on the scoring models that best meet your needs.	•	•
Performance levels allow schools to measure student performance in terms of the number and percentage of students progressing from one level to another scale.	Helps determine the effectiveness of new instructional strategies over time.	•	•
All editions are linked to a common scale.	Allows for comparisons of results for students taking different editions of the test.	•	•

