

Iowa Assessments & Cognitive Abilities Test

The Iowa Assessments (formerly Iowa Test of Basic Skills, ITBS) are a series of standardized achievement tests for the following areas: language, mathematics, social studies, science and use of reference materials. Iowa Assessments are administered to PAES students in grades 3rd through 8th in early October of each school year.

The primary purpose of these tests is to provide information on student progress that can be used to improve instruction and to make better decisions for students' success. These tests allow teachers to examine individual and group classroom progress. The test results also provide information to students and parents for monitoring student growth from grade to grade.

In conjunction with Iowa Assessments testing, students in grades 4th and 7th are given the Cognitive Abilities Test. This test measures general and specific reasoning abilities that enable students to learn new tasks and solve problems. Student abilities are assessed in three categories: verbal, nonverbal and quantitative.

The Cognitive Abilities Test measures developed abilities, not innate abilities. These abilities are closely related to in-school and out-of-school experiences. They are also closely related to success in school in all subjects. Test results help with planning individual instructional programs for students—enhancing student success in learning. This test results provide a measure of cognitive development separately from school grades and helps identify students whose predicted levels of achievement are distinctly different (higher or lower) from their expected levels of achievement.

These achievement tests are an important source of student assessment for both teachers and parents—they play a significant role in the overall PAES educational program.