

Dear Parent,

ACSI administers the ACSI Edition of *TerraNova, Third Edition* Achievement Test. This assessment is published by DRC/CTB, and, through its partnership with ACSI, is being made available to Christian schools across the nation and around the globe.

Be assured that the *TerraNova 3* is a technically sound and up-to-date assessment program and provides the most recent national comparisons.

TerraNova 3 content is closely aligned to state and national standards. It is designed to measure concepts, processes, and objectives taught throughout the nation in Reading, Language, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. *TerraNova 3*, ACSI Edition includes the Bible Assessment Subtest and five additional PLUS tests for more diagnostic assessment in Word Analysis, Vocabulary, Spelling, Language Mechanics, and Math Computation. This complete testing program provides teachers and parents with valuable and in-depth information in all subject areas.

Scores that are familiar to you from our previous testing program are included in the *TerraNova 3* score reports: percentiles, scale scores, stanines, and normal curve equivalents. Diagnostic scores such as Lexiles and the Objective Performance Index are also available.

This assessment program also includes new services that will help our school make the most effective use of testing results. These enhancements include a quick turn-around time for receiving test results and professional development for our teachers. **ACSI Data Online for Parents** will allow you to view your child's results online, and have access to helpful and informative resources.

The following *TerraNova 3* scores are available for your child.

Percentile/Percentile Rank

The percentile is a score that shows the relative standing of a student compared to other students. For example, if a student received an 84 national percentile score on a specific subtest, she scored above 84% of students in a norming group that took the same subtest. This norming group has the same characteristics as the national population of students, which is why the score is known as a national percentile.

TerraNova 3 is standardized so that the majority of students in the norming group score close to the 50th percentile and fewer students in the norming group score at the lower and upper ends of the range. This causes score intervals near the 50th percentile to be closer together, and, at the lower and upper ends of the range, farther apart (a bell-curve).

If that same student received a 62 ACSI percentile score, she scored above 62% of all ACSI students that took the same subtest. Within ACSI Data Online, the ACSI comparison will be known as the Local Percentile.

A student's ACSI percentile score is always lower than her national percentile score because the ACSI student population's percentile on all subtests is higher than the national percentile, which is 50. In other words ACSI students score higher overall than the national population of students on *TerraNova 3*. When an individual student is compared with each of these groups, her score will appear lower when compared with the ACSI group and higher when compared with the national group.

Normal Curve Equivalent

The Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) is a cousin to the percentile. They are similar in that both scores range from 1 to 99; however, because NCE scores have equal intervals from 1-99, schools can use an NCE score to find average scores for groups. This is not true of the percentile.

Stanine

The term "stanine" is a blended word that originates from the phrase, "standard of nine," referring to a scale of nine units. A student's stanine score is related to his percentile score, but is more simplistic. Generally, a stanine of 1, 2, or 3 is considered in the "below average" range of achievement; 4, 5, or 6 is in the "average range", and 7, 8, or 9 is in the "above average range". Since the stanine is derived from the percentile rank, the two scores are often listed together in the same column, for example, 65-6.

Scale Score

The scale score describes achievement on a continuum that in most cases spans the complete range of Kindergarten through Grade 12. These scores can range in value from 100 to 900. In other words we would expect to see a child's scale score rise each year in a given content area.

Scale scores have no readily apparent meaning when viewed alone, but when you compare a student's scale score with a class, grade level, or national group average, you get a picture of how that student is achieving compared to these groups. Scale score comparison charts are accessible in ACSI Data Online for the school to view.

Objectives Performance Index

The Objectives Performance Index (OPI) is a very diagnostic score. It provides detailed information about a student's mastery of specific objectives within a content area. The OPI is not a comparison score like percentiles, stanines, and scale scores, rather, it is a performance score, reflecting how the student performed based on a set standard.

The OPI score is based on a scale from 0 to 100. It is helpful to think of this score in these terms: For example, a student obtains an OPI of 78 in Reading- Basic Understanding. If there had been 100 questions that addressed Basic Understanding, the student would have gotten 78 of those questions correct.

Next, experts in the area of reading determine levels of mastery for each objective. In the case of the objective, Basic Understanding, these experts set the following ranges (each objective has a unique range for each level of mastery):

Below Mastery	0-47
Mid-mastery	48-70
Mastery	71-100

Mastery level OPI scores suggest that the student is ready for the next grade level in a specific objective.

Scores in the mid-mastery range suggest that the student has partial mastery in that objective, and that more instruction in this objective would be beneficial.

Scores in the below-mastery range should be of concern, and intervention activities should be considered.

Lexile

Lexiles are scores that are used to determine a student's reading ability, as well as a text's difficulty. This score is generated from the Reading subtest for grades 1-8. A Lexile may be used to check if a student's reading level is at, above, or below grade-level expectations. In addition, it is possible to use the Lexile to select books at the appropriate reading level.

Grade Band	Approximate Lexile Band
Grade 1	Not available
Grades 2 – 3	450L – 790L
Grades 4 – 5	770L – 980L
Grades 6 – 8	955 – 1155L

Bible Assessment Subtest Performance Level

The Bible Assessment Subtest Performance Level score is described by a scale score that can range in value from approximately 100 to 900 and correlates to a performance level. This score will allow you to have an understanding of the student's strengths and needs in Bible. The four performance level scores are Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced.

Please feel free to come to us with any questions.