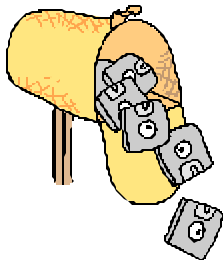


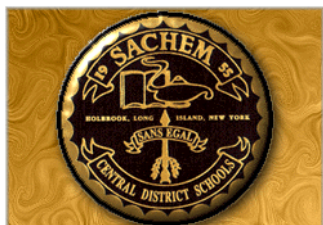
# Staff Development Supplement

Special Edition

[Hitting a Home Run on the TerraNova](#)



[www.sachem.edu](http://www.sachem.edu)



[Click on Curriculum/Technology Tools](#)

[For Administrators](#)   [For Teachers & Students](#)   [For Parents](#)

## Understanding the TerraNova Achievement Tests

The TerraNova Exam is published by CTB McGraw-Hill. The exam provides information on four areas:

- Reading and Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

Since the exam is a standardized test, it is always administered with similar questions, directions, time limits, and scoring criteria. These results are then compared with those of other students across the country on the same grade level.

Students are asked to answer multiple choice questions and constructed response items.

Further information is provided through the electronic resources listed to the right.

### ABOUT TERRANOVA (TENNESSEE DEPT. OF EDUCATION)

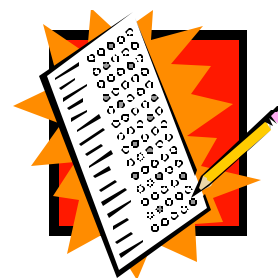
<http://www.state.tn.us/education/wmterranova.htm>



<http://www.ctb.com/>



<http://www.state.tn.us/education/tsteststrategies.htm>



### Achievement Testing Data Resources



<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>



<http://www.ncme.org/>

NCME is an organization that is incorporated exclusively for scientific, educational, literary, and charitable purposes.

For a printable version of this newsletter, click here. (This version is a .pdf file.)

## Analyzing TerraNova Objectives Reports

Washoc County testing director, Dotty Merrill, said schools that have focused on identifying where students need help have seen some of the biggest gains. Last year, hundreds of teachers at schools across the district took a workshop on how to break down test data and use it to target instruction for students.

"Schools that are making use of that item analysis are seeing greater gains," Merrill said. "Lenz worked really hard last summer analyzing the data and making changes in instruction, and their scores I think reflect that."

Like Duncan, some schools are seeing lower scores in science but higher scores in the other three core subjects. Many schools are focusing on basic read-

ing and math to bring their scores up, and science instruction may be suffering.

Read the Foundation for California Early Literacy Learning's full article by Jennifer Crowe's at : [http://www.cell-exll.com/articles/reno\\_article.htm](http://www.cell-exll.com/articles/reno_article.htm)



"Professional development for teachers is the single most important decision we can make."

## Test Prep Resources for Administrators



CTBS, the creators of the exam, offer TestMate Clarity to analyze the test data and run reports. Reporting capabilities include grouping of students, selection of criteria and more. Visit the site at: [http://www.ctb.com/mktg/testmate/testmate\\_powerful.jsp](http://www.ctb.com/mktg/testmate/testmate_powerful.jsp)

*Fast ForWord*<sup>®</sup> See how Scientific Learning's FastForWord software has increased test scores on the TerraNova in a study. The students showed improvement in both reading and mathemat-

ics scores. See more at: <http://www.scilearn.com/results/assess/main=terranova>

Fun Education offers extensive online practice tests for grades 1-8 in each state as well as printed practice books. Online tests enable you to get instant results, track your progress in each subject, and to take as many tests as necessary to successfully prepare.

<http://www.funeducation.com/statestandards/>

## Connecting Assessment and Instruction

In a presentation to the Milwaukee Public Schools, Dr. L. Thompson provides some worksheets to target areas which require improvement and those that do not. It includes particular examples focus on reading and learning.

Some tips are included for supporting effective learning which include actively engaging students, using their prior knowledge, graphic organizers, group interaction, and feedback.

There are also example lessons covering: Identifying Important Information in Expository Text, Various levels of guided support from the teacher, sentence comprehension activity, story map worksheets and tips for student writers.

This file requires Acrobat Reader: <http://www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us-fileBroker.php-10496-TerraNova Reading Handout.pdf>

[Hitting a Home Run on the TerraNova](#)  
[Introduction](#)   [For Administrators](#)   [For Parents](#)

## What Teachers Need to Know about the

A frequently asked questions list, including items such as "What is the TerraNova?", Times for each section, and teaching strategies from the Tennessee Department of Education. See all at:  
<http://www.state.tn.us/education/wmterranova.htm>

Find a checklist of skills arranged by grade level and subject at:  
<http://www.people.memphis.edu/~jsiegel/TITLE1/terranova.html>

Strategies for K-2:  
[http://www.rcs.k12.tn.us/terranova\\_strategies\\_k-2.htm](http://www.rcs.k12.tn.us/terranova_strategies_k-2.htm)

Strategies for 3-5:  
[http://www.rcs.k12.tn.us/terranova\\_strategies\\_3-5.htm](http://www.rcs.k12.tn.us/terranova_strategies_3-5.htm)

### School—Home Connections

Grade level teachers can coordinate efforts to locate curriculum strengths and weaknesses as defined by test results. Teachers then select a test topic as an example and show how curriculum covers this topic. This full article requires the free Adobe Acrobat Reader. It also contains PowerPoint Shows and sample meetings. View it at:

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/accountability/pdf/testing/CTBSSstrategies.pdf>

### Resources for Students to Prepare for the TerraNova



PowerPoint slideshows for students arranged by grade level (requires either the [free viewer](#) or a full version of PowerPoint to view most of the files.) Find them at:  
<http://jc-schools.net/terranova-res.htm>

[5.htm](#)

Other strategies arranged by grade level, then by topic:

[http://www.internet4classrooms.com/grade\\_level\\_help.htm](http://www.internet4classrooms.com/grade_level_help.htm)



### Reading Skills and Strategies

A **SCHOLASTIC** wealth of resources from Scholastic, including complete lesson plans arranged by topic, grade level and author. Examples of lessons include teaching sections of Harry Potter books and celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday. See the complete listing at:

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/ilp/index.asp?SubjectID=1&SubheadID=4&TopicID=54>

### Text Resources



[Raising Test Scores for All Students](#) by Eugene Kennedy provides a comprehensive guide for administrators looking for a systemic approach to the challenge of standardized testing.



[TerraNova: Classroom Connections](#): Each binder provides practice materials and teaching strategies.



[Hitting a Home Run on the TerraNova](#)  
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**Test Prep Resources for  
Parents**

The Tennessee Department of Education's test taking strategies for teachers, parents, and students:

<http://www.state.tn.us/education/tsteststrategies.htm>



Whether your child has a standardized test coming up in a few days or a few weeks, these last-minute, test-prep tips and strategies will help them relax and do their best.

[http://www.charliefrench.com/test\\_tips.htm](http://www.charliefrench.com/test_tips.htm)

Second Grade Sprouts contains strategies for grades K-2:

<http://myschoolonline.com/page/0,1871,45241-162621-48-12316,00.html>

## Resources for Parents

### Fun Ways to Encourage Your Children to Read

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/familyworks/school-04.html>

These are fun activities that you can do with your child (ren) to encourage them to read and to reinforce the importance of school.

### How Can I Be Involved in My Child's Education?

<http://www.eric.ed.gov/archives/involved.html>

Research studies consistently reveal that high student achievement and self-esteem are closely related to positive parental participation in education. Parents and schools need to work together so all children can succeed in school.

### Family, Career and Technical Education Publications for Families and Educators

<http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/family/1226.html>

This site links to resources including daily activity calendars for the primary grades.

### **ReadyWeb**

Virtual Library: Tips for Parents

<http://readyweb.crc.uiuc.edu/parents.html>

This website is the Ready Web Virtual Library: Tips for Parents.

### Test Strategies for Students, Parents, and Teachers

<http://www.state.tn.us/education/tsteststrategies.htm>