

The Alaska Norm-Referenced Test

*TerraNova®, The Second Edition*

# Guide to the Home Report



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# Guide to the Home Report

Information pertaining to your student's test results for the Alaska Norm-Referenced Test (*TerraNova*®, *The Second Edition CAT Complete Battery Plus*) is provided in the Home Report. This guide can assist you in understanding what the test measures and what the Home Report can tell you about your student. The guide also suggests ways that you can help improve your student's learning.

## What the Home Report Tells You

There are two types of information reported in your student's Home Report. The front side graphs your student's performance in terms of National Percentile scores. National Percentile scores compare your student's performance with all other students who took the same test. For example, if your student scored at the 65th percentile in reading, he or she scored equal to or above 65 percent of his or her peers in reading. Unlike most tests your student has probably taken, in which 50 percent correct is typically considered a poor grade, the 50th National Percentile is considered to be the "national average." In other words, the 50th percentile is the middle score—half of the students achieved scores above this percentile, and half below it. Refer to the gray-shaded area on your student's Home Report for this information.

The back of the Home Report describes the kinds of knowledge, skills, and abilities that are tested in each content area of the test. The "What You Can Do" section of this guide gives suggestions for using these results to focus on areas of learning in which your student may need help.

## How Test Results Should Be Used

It is important to remember that your student's results on the Alaska Norm-Referenced Test are just one of the many different sources available to determine how well your student is progressing in school. In the same way that a physician needs to use different types of tests to evaluate your student's health, educators also need to use a variety of tests. Sources such as classroom work and classroom tests are also important in determining how well your student is learning. Along with information about your student's classroom performance, you can use the information on the front side of the Home Report to help you focus immediately on areas in which your student may need the most help. The back of the Home Report provides additional information on what the test measures.

## What You Can Do

There are many ways you can encourage your student to develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to succeed in school. Here are a few suggestions:

- MEET** with staff from your student's school to discuss his or her strengths as well as areas that need improvement. The content area descriptions on the back of the Home Report can help you better understand what is actually being tested.
- ASK** yourself if the test results are consistent with your student's classroom performance.
- DETERMINE** the areas in which your student is succeeding and where improvement is needed.
- USE** this information, together with classroom information, to work with your student's school to set learning goals for your student.

It is important to let your student know that you value education. Set high expectations. Emphasize the importance of attending school regularly, paying attention in class, and completing all homework. Stay involved by talking with your student every day about his or her performance in school.