

Testing Guidance for Schools and SGOs

The Accountability Act requires that qualifying schools receiving scholarship funds annually administer achievements tests to those students' receiving scholarships. If a school fails to comply, the SGO must inform the Alabama Department of Revenue of this failure immediately.

Schools receiving scholarship funds must annually administer either the state achievement tests or nationally recognized norm-referenced tests that measure learning gains in math and language arts. Testing is required for grades 2-8 and grades 10-11.

Test scores must be made available to the SGOs in a timely manner, so that they can meet the August 15th reporting deadline.

When choosing a standardized test to give to students, schools should ensure that the tests have the following:

- ❑ Test should be norm- or criterion-referenced or have some other standards or benchmarks that allow comparisons of scholarship recipient performance to student performance in the U.S and/or track progress against a set of validated measures.
- ❑ Test should have English/Language Arts, Math, and Reading scores.
- ❑ Test should provide standardized or scale scores.
- ❑ Test should provide national percentile scores.
- ❑ If a student who should be tested, was not tested, please include a letter from the school explaining why (e.g., absent the day of testing).
- ❑ Schools should send scanned copies of official test scores from the testing company with the normative year visible, if it is included in the test report.
- ❑ Schools should submit a separate report for each student generated by the Testing Company.
- ❑ *The scores should only include students who are receiving scholarship funds.*
- ❑ If the school sends a doctor's note when the student is absent for testing, please note that in the test index and demographic form (and include it with the test scores).
- ❑ If a student has an IEP or 504 plan that indicates the student shouldn't take a standardized test, please send a copy of the signed IEP or 504 plan to info@renaissancescholarships.org. The student will be exempt from testing.