

Testing Guidance for Schools and SGOs

The Accountability Act requires qualifying schools to administer annual achievement tests for students receiving scholarship funds. If a school fails to comply, the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) must promptly notify the Alabama Department of Revenue about this non-compliance.

Schools must administer either state achievement tests or nationally recognized norm-referenced tests to measure learning gains in math and language arts. Testing is necessary for students in grades 2-8, 10 and 11.

Test scores must be provided to the SGOs in a timely manner to ensure they can meet the reporting deadline of August 15th. When choosing a standardized test to give to students, schools should ensure that the tests have the following:

- Tests should be norm- or criterion-referenced, or follow other standards or benchmarks that allow comparisons of scholarship recipient performance to student performance in the U.S. They should also track progress against a set of validated measures.
- The test should include scores in English/Language Arts, Math, and Reading.
- Test results should provide standardized or scaled scores.
- The test should provide national percentile scores.
- If a student was not tested, please include a letter from the school explaining the reason (e.g., absent on the day of testing).
- Schools should send scanned copies of official test scores from the testing company, ensuring that the normative year is visible if included in the test report.
- Each school should submit a separate report for every student, as generated by the Testing Company.
- The scores should only include students who are receiving scholarship funding.
- If the school provides a doctor's note for a student's absence during testing, please document this in the test index and demographic form, and include it with the test scores.
- If a student has an IEP or 504 plan indicating they should not 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.