

Homeschool parents know (if they have more than one student) that they often have more than one type of learner. Group Testing (although a wonderful option for some students) is the absolutely worse possible option for others. On this page explore the options of Individual Testing. It is more personal and less time consuming than group testing. Because of the individual nature of the testing/evaluation it is, of necessity also more expensive. When you have come to a final decision regarding the testing or evaluation you desire please download the Registration Form and mail it (with a deposit) to the address indicated on the form. A quick perusal of the '12 Test Letter will update you on the current prices.

Many times I am asked about tests and testing. Here are some helpful pieces of information that should answer most of those questions.

The law says that registered homeschoolers must be tested or assessed for progress for that school year. Your child may be tested in a group tested privately using a standardized test, or your child may be evaluated. Testing may be done anytime in the spring or summer as long as the results are turned in to the appropriate school system by Aug. 1 each year. Be sure to allow enough time for the tests to be ordered, administered, and the results to be returned to you and then to the school system (at least 8 weeks). The type of test is to be determined by the parent, **not** the public schools.

Individual Testing:

The **Wide Range Achievement Test 4 (WRAT)** is accepted by the state and is very short. (The WRAT-4 was new in 2006.) This test is given individually, not in a group setting. Sub-tests include Word Reading, Sentence Comprehension, Spelling, and Mathematics. Though this test is short, it is amazingly accurate. Many schools use this test as a quick placement test for new students. The scores may be based on the student's age, or on grade.

The **Woodcock-Johnson 3** is another individual test and is a very acceptable test. In fact, there probably isn't a public (and possibly private) school system that doesn't use this test. It is a much longer test than the WRAT because it has more sub-tests. Sub-tests include Word Identification, Calculation, Spelling, Passage Comprehension, Applied Problems (math word problems and practical applications), and Writing Samples, and many more. Not all of the sub-tests need to be given to acquire a good educational assessment of the student. The scores may be based on the student's age or grade. This test may be used for gifted programs, special needs, placement test or achievement test.

Evaluations:

Two non-standardized assessment options that are available are an evaluation and a portfolio evaluation.

Each evaluator has their own way of doing an evaluation. My **evaluations** are based on

the Va. Standards of Learning (SOL's). I meet with the parent for a few minutes and then meet with the child. The child is asked questions based on the SOL's for English and Math only. Then I meet with the parent again to let them know orally what the results will be. (The written evaluation will be sent to the parent at a later date.) An evaluation is the most child friendly assessment and is very good for young children who are not good readers. It is especially recommended for children up through fourth grade, but older children may also be evaluated.

The **portfolio evaluation** is a compilation of sample work and accomplishments of the child for the school year. The portfolio may be left with the evaluator to assess. The child does not have to be interviewed. The parent may pick up a written assessment of the portfolio when they pick up the portfolio. If this is the way you want your child to be evaluated, please be working on the portfolio NOW. This type of assessment takes a lot of effort on the part of the parent. Also, please call to find out what I expect to see in it.

****Parents, please be sure that YOU send test results to the appropriate school system by August 1. This is your responsibility. I do not send your results to any school system.****