

## Alternatives to TCAP Testing for Independent Home Schoolers

The TN home school law (TCA § 49-6-3050) requires parents of students in grades 5, 7, and 9 to take state assessments in their local public school system. However, there is an option outlined below in TCA § 49-6-3050 which would allow a home school student to take a test other than the same state assessments required of public school students. The law states:

*(5) (A) Administration by the commissioner of education, or the commissioner's designee, or by a professional testing service that is approved by the LEA, to home school students of the same state board approved secure standardized tests required of public school students in grades five (5), seven (7) and nine (9); (ii) Tests administered by a professional testing service shall be administered within thirty (30) days of the date of the statewide test. Tests administered by a professional testing service shall be administered at the expense of the parent-teacher; (iii) All test results from either administration by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, or by a professional testing service, shall be provided to the parent-teacher, the director of schools and the state board of education;*

Therefore, the alternate test would need to be standardized, administered by a professional testing service within 30 days of the statewide assessments, and the results provided to the LEA for review.

Some parents choose to use a professional testing service such as Sylvan Learning Centers.

Otherwise, you can find more information here:

<https://hslida.org/teaching-my-kids/testing-evaluation>

### Nationally Standardized Achievement Tests

Four of the most commonly used nationally standardized achievement tests are listed here. *Listing the information and links below should not be construed as and does not constitute a recommendation or an endorsement by the Tennessee Department of Education of any one of these vendors or their other related services over any others not so listed.*

1. *Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)*
2. *Stanford Achievement Test (SAT 10)*
3. *California Achievement Test (CAT)*
4. *Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS)*

Standardized test ordering web sites:

- <http://www.abekatesting.org/>
- <http://www.bjupress.com/testing/>
- <http://www.hslida.org/highschool/testing.asp#standardized>
- <http://www.riversidepublishing.com/products/itbs/>
- <http://www.setontesting.com/>