

Terra Nova vs. IOWA

nationally-normed, standardized tests

Terra Nova

- one day
- survey

The Terra Nova was an ideal test to meet the standards of the WV law while spending little time testing.

With limited subtests, this survey version was easily administered in one day.

Iowa Assessments™ Form E

- two (sometimes three) half days for most test levels
- comprehensive battery

Providing a full battery of tests/subtests, the Iowa provides more comprehensive information - beyond what the law requires.

Parents not only have what they need to satisfy the law, but they also have additional information about how their child is doing academically compared with other students their child's age and grade.

When were both tests available to WV homeschoolers?

For many years, until this year, the WVHEA provided the Terra Nova while CHEWV provided the Iowa. In our opinion, this was ideal. The Terra Nova was a short survey test for satisfying the law quickly. The Iowa also satisfied the law but additionally offered parents comprehensive feedback. Unfortunately, it looks like the shorter testing option is no longer a viable option.

Why is the Terra Nova no longer available?

The WV law requires that the standardized test be published or normed within the previous ten years. The Terra Nova's publisher, like so many other test publishers, are producing tests much less frequently. Our understanding is that the only current version that meets the law's requirements is cost-prohibitive.

Can't the Iowa just be administered in 1 or 2 days?

Theoretically, that's possible. However, brick and mortar public and private school students usually take this test over several school days, allowing for better rest, improved attention, and fresh energy for each subtest. Homeschoolers are disadvantaged when squeezing it all into one long day. This would lower most children's scores, especially since results are in percentile rankings. See chewv.org for information about percentile ranks, bell curves, and more. Or contact testing@chewv.org with questions.