

TESTING PROGRAMS

The board believes that a program of group testing can provide a meaningful source of information about the curriculum and overall student achievement. The board, therefore, authorizes a program of group testing to help accomplish the following objectives:

1. To evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the current curriculum and instruction to identify areas needing change;
2. To compare achievement of district students with themselves and with students nationally as one means to evaluate student growth;
3. To provide a degree of diagnostic instructional information to teachers about the group(s) of students they work with;
4. To provide general information about a student's probable attitude for school-related tasks;
5. To provide one basis for longitudinal study of student achievement.

Information gained through the use of group tests will be used to design educational opportunities for students to better meet their individual and collective needs. The board views such information gathering as a primary function of the public schools. Therefore, individual permission of parents will not be required for the administration of these group tests.

The board recognizes that all tests provide only a limited source of information about an individual student. Information drawn from group tests will therefore be used only in conjunction with all other information known about a student in advising the student or assisting the student in improving his work.

Records of the results of group tests shall be maintained in accordance with the board's policy on student records.

Testing Program - District-Wide

Testing and proper use of test results have long been considered an essential part of the student evaluation process. A district-wide testing program is in effect in the Garretson School as follows:

Early Childhood Screening - ongoing

The prescribed Dakota Step Test will be administered to all students in grades three (3) through eight (8) and eleven (11) in the spring of the year, and the Stanford Writing Assessment will be given to all students in grades five (5) and nine (9) in the fall of the year.

The following tests are available to help determine eligibility for scholarships, job placement, and military, vocational, and higher education entrance:

PSAT-NMSQT, ACT - Eleventh (11th) Grade
ACT, SAT, GATB - Twelfth (12th) Grade

Adoption date: December 10, 2007