



Understanding TerraNova Score Changes When Transitioning to TerraNova NEXT

ASSESSMENT BRIEF

To address this question, one needs to consider how TerraNova NEXT was scaled, the content of the form, the pattern of previous TerraNova form use, and the dynamic nature of school systems. TerraNova NEXT was built such that student performance could be expressed on the existing TerraNova scale. To link performance on TerraNova NEXT to the TerraNova scale score metric, a comprehensive research study was conducted using a large sample of students who took TerraNova NEXT over a two-year pilot period. That means that the scale scores from different TerraNova forms (including TerraNova 3 and TerraNova NEXT) are expressed on a common scale of measurement and can be compared. In general, a student is expected to get about the same TerraNova scale score regardless of which form was taken. However, some caveats should be considered when comparing TerraNova NEXT scores to scores from previous TerraNova forms.

Although TerraNova NEXT scores are expressed on the same scale of measurement used to report performance on previous TerraNova forms, one should keep in mind that the content of TerraNova NEXT is not strictly parallel to the content of previous TerraNova forms. The content of TerraNova NEXT differs from the content of other TerraNova forms in that the Reading, Language, and Mathematics tests have been updated to address higher depths of knowledge overall, and the standards are written to the current, modern-day college and career ready framework and student expectations. It is important to consider these content differences when evaluating changes in scores when moving from older forms of TerraNova to TerraNova NEXT.

What kinds of score changes are expected when transitioning from previous TerraNova™ forms to the TerraNova NEXT edition?

Another factor that can influence score change is the degree and impact of exposure of the previously administered TerraNova forms. For example, when the same form has been administered for several years in a school system, it is not uncommon to see a score drop when a new form is introduced. The repeated administration of specific content within a previous form may have an influence on the curriculum and/or teaching practice over time, and this may not have the same effect on student performance when TerraNova NEXT is first administered. It is important to factor in the transition from a previously administered form when moving from an older form of TerraNova that has been used repeatedly to TerraNova NEXT.

Lastly, it is important to note that student performance from year to year can fluctuate for a variety of other reasons. New cohorts of students, teachers, and other stakeholders enter and exit schools on an annual basis. New curricula can be introduced that impact the scope and sequence of learning for students, which can impact student performance on assessments. Be aware that the score changes that may occur in response to the transition to TerraNova NEXT generally take place in the first year of implementation. It is wise to prepare teachers and parents by telling them that a slight change, either a drop or an increase, may occur.

