

## TEST DESCRIPTIONS

### Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (Terra Nova)

The CTBS/Terra Nova is a norm-referenced standardized student achievement test. The test measures student achievement in comparison to students nation-wide. The results are used primarily for district-wide program evaluation, but can be used by teachers and parents to determine strengths and weaknesses. The test is administered at grades 2, 4, 6 and 9.

### Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT/7)

The OLSAT/7 is an ability test. This scholastic aptitude provides an accurate and efficient measure of the abilities needed to acquire the desired cognitive outcomes of formal education. The test is used as a basis for comparing ability with student academic achievement. The test is administered at grades 3 and 7 and at the Kindergarten level.

### Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)

This test is a preparation exam provided for juniors who anticipate taking the SAT as seniors. It is also the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship program.

### American College Test (ACT)

The ACT is the college entrance exam required by all Kansas universities and most other midwestern institutions. Starting with the Class of 2001, an ACT score of 21 will be one of the ways to qualify for admission to any Kansas Regents institution. The test covers math, English, reading and science reasoning. The test is taken during the junior or senior year.

### ACT Explore

The ACT Explore is an 8th grade program that helps develop an appropriate four-year plan for every student with 4 tests of academic achievement, an interest inventory, a needs assessment, a study skills component, and a course work planner. This would be available to any interested eighth grade students.

### ACT Plan

The ACT PLAN is a tenth grade Pre-ACT assessment. The test covers the same content areas as the ACT. The PLAN assists students in becoming familiar with the ACT format and provides information about possible course taking for the junior and senior year. This test would be available to any interested 10th grade student.

### Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

The SAT is a college entrance exam used by Eastern, Western and Southern universities. The test is administered to juniors or seniors. The test has english and math sections.

### Kansas State Reading Assessment

The purpose of the Kansas Reading Assessment is to measure student's levels of comprehension of narrative, expository, persuasive and technical readings. Every student is given a numerical score for all four reading types. Additionally, each student's comprehension skills are rated as advanced, proficient, satisfactory, basic or unsatisfactory. The test is given every year in grades 5, 8 and 11.

### Kansas State Math Assessment

The purpose of the Kansas Mathematics Assessment is to measure student's mathematical knowledge and application of the four standards of the Kansas State Mathematics Curriculum: Algebra, Number and Computation, Geometry and Data. Separate knowledge and application scores are given for each student. The test is given each year in grades 4, 7 and 10.

### Kansas State Writing Assessment

The purpose of the Kansas Writing Assessment is to measure students' writing skills based on the Six-Trait Analytical Model. It is a model for instruction in writing as well as a means of discovering information about student performance. The developmental approach of this model characterizes performance as advanced, proficient, satisfactory, basic or unsatisfactory. The model is based on six writing traits; Ideas and Content, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency and Conventions. The test is given every year at grades 5, 8 and 11.

### Kansas State Science Assessment

The purpose of the Kansas Science Assessment is to measure student's understanding of the seven standards of the Kansas State Science Curriculum: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Science as Inquiry, Science and Technology, Science in Personal and Environmental Perspectives, and History and Nature of Science. Science knowledge and process scores are given for each student. The test is given every other year in grades 4, 7 and 10.

### Kansas Social Studies Assessment

The purpose of the Kansas State Social Studies Assessment is to measure student's knowledge and application of the four standards of the Kansas State Social Studies Curriculum: Civics/Government, Economics, Geography and Kansas, United States and World History. Separate scores for knowledge and application are given for each student. The test is given every other year in grades 6, 8 and 11.