

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

(From CTB McGraw-Hill)

THE VALUE OF STANDARDIZED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

Achievement tests are designed to measure the things that a student knows and can do.

A well-planned, comprehensive assessment program built upon a quality test provides valuable information about students that can support teaching in many areas, including:

- Evaluation of Student Progress
- Needs Assessment
- Instructional Program Planning
- Curriculum Analysis
- Program Evaluation
- Class Grouping
- Administrative Planning and Direction

A sound assessment and evaluation program reinforces educational decisions. It can positively impact individual students as well as parents or guardians, groups or classes of students, schools, and communities.

Test data can be used to:

- Aid teachers and administrators in improving instructional plans
- Keep parents informed about their children's progress
- Inform the community of the general progress being made by a school or school system

APPROPRIATE USES OF TEST DATA

To Help Teachers Teach

Test results are most valuable when the testing information is used to support instruction in the classroom. Test results can also be used to help make critical administrative decisions that affect students and their families, such as eligibility for placement into special programs. Additionally, test results can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum and the instructional program and to keep the public informed of progress being made by schools.