

## Terra Nova, Third Edition

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development require testing of students in Grades 5 and 7 using the Terra Nova, Third Edition achievement test. Administered in February of 2011, the TN3 tests in the areas of Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics. The district has also chosen to test the supplemental, Science, Social Studies & Spelling tests.

The Terra Nova, Third Edition is a norm-referenced test, is designed to be used with a national student audience so that test scores for a fifth or seventh grade student in our district can be compared to the scores of fifth & seventh graders throughout the country. The district wide group scores (which are included in this report) and the individual student scores (which are sent home to parents) are reported as a percentile score. Both group and individual percentile scores are based upon the number of right answers in each section of the test.

National Percentile (NP) - the percentile of students in a norm group whose scores fall below a given scale score at the national level. For example, a student that scored at the 65<sup>th</sup> percentile in Reading indicates that the student scored equal to or above 65% of students nationwide in Reading. **National percentiles of 25 – 75 are considered to be in the average range.**

The normal curve equivalent (NCE) scale, ranges from 1 to 99, coincides with the national percentile scale at 1, 50 and 99. NCEs have many of the same characteristics of percentile ranks, but have the additional advantage of being based on an equal-interval scale. The difference between two successive scores on the scale has the same meaning throughout the scale. This property allows for meaningful comparisons among different achievement tests. The Mean Normal Curve Equivalent (MNCE) is computed by adding the Normal Curve Equivalent scores of all students in a group, then dividing by the number of students in the group.