

Dear Testing Families,

I want to address homeschool testing during the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. I am speaking as a former homeschooling mom, a current homeschooling teacher, an Orton-Gillingham reading tutor and as a registered nurse. I am still hoping to be able to test this year, however, your well-being is more important to me than if you test with me!

I wanted to give you information on various ways to meet the NC homeschool testing requirement. If you are testing just to fulfill the state requirement and don't have educational concerns regarding your children's educational progress, then either online testing or ordering a paper test can fulfill the state requirement. There are two ways I recommend to test and stay at home.

First, you can test **online** with either the Iowa or the Stanford achievement tests. The online Iowa is given by BJU Testing (<https://www.bjupresshomeschool.com/content/testing>). Parents can **also order the paper** edition of either the Iowa or the Stanford achievement tests through BJU Testing. (Please note: There is an extra requirement from the Stanford test publisher for test training that can be done online at BJU Testing.) The requirement for ordering both is that the parent (or test administrator) have a minimum of a college bachelor's degree.

The online Stanford testing is available through Seton Testing Services (<https://www.setontesting.com/>). The Stanford has two differences from the Iowa. First, it allows as much time as needed for a student to complete. Second, there is a listening subtest through 8<sup>th</sup> grade that I think gives useful information on a student's auditory strength.

The differences with the Woodcock-Johnson test include a personalized test administration with the test administrator noting areas that can be discussed with the parent. It is also not given by grade-level as the other high-stakes tests. A student can keep answering as long as he/she is able. Finally, it is one-on-one and takes under two hours with immediate results given to the parent.

If you have concern about an academic area and do not mind waiting until restrictions pass, then you may want to wait for the Woodcock. If you really just want to get testing done and have no concerns, then I have given you the options that I would use.

The most important thing is to be safe and follow the guidelines that health professionals have given us. I am praying that you all remain healthy and that is my foremost concern. There will always be options for testing. Do not hesitate to contact me with a question. Also, I have been in contact with BJU Testing regarding the Stanford tests that have been ordered and if I cancel anytime up to two-weeks prior to the test day, a full refund is given. I will, of course, refund any money that has been paid if you decide to use another testing option at home.

Thank you so much for allowing me to serve the homeschool community and I am praying for you all.

Sincerely,  
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