

April 7, 2020

Dear Colleague,

We know that the priority for you and your team is re-establishing your instructional and school-wide programs with the goal of completing the school year successfully. We recognize that spring standardized testing is not a priority for you right now.

But—standardized testing should not be dismissed for this year despite these unusual circumstances. This type of testing and the information it provides is a teaching tool and is an important component of your Christian school's instructional program. Historically, standardized testing data provided a snapshot of the effectiveness of your instructional program, identified academic strengths and weaknesses, assisted in decisions about curriculum, and held you accountable to your school community. And, it has been a great PR tool too.

In addition to these attributes, and after the events of this spring, an adjusted approach by focusing on criterion-referenced scores rather than norm comparison scores will be extremely beneficial to you as you plan instruction for the 2020-2021 school year.

ACSI's student assessment program training focuses on helping schools drill down to analyze test data, whether its good news or bad news. After the adapted instruction of this spring, data from a summer or back-to-school test administration, extracted from criterion referenced scores, will be extremely relevant. You will be able to identify accurate mastery levels for your students upon which to plan instruction for the 2020-2021 school year.

To accommodate schools' schedules this year, we have extended the spring testing window through September 18 for *TerraNova 3*, and through September 23 for Iowa Assessments. This means schools can test anytime from now, though the summer, or after school starts next fall. Spring norms will still apply, and students can take the same test level as they would have this spring. We are referring to this extended window as Summer and Back-to-School Testing.

We have provided resources to assist you in planning and administering your Summer or Back-to-School testing. All these resources are available at <https://your.acsi.org/Summer-BTS>.

As always, we are available to answer your questions, consult, and/or provide training to make your student assessment program successful.

Sincerely,



David Smitherman
ACSI Student Assessment Program Manager