



Understanding *Terra Nova* Reports

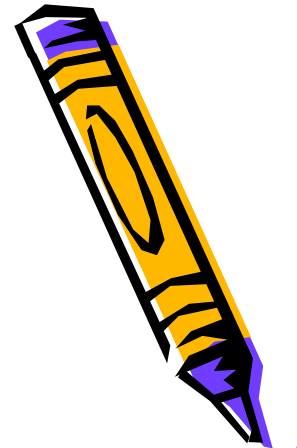
for Teachers and Parents



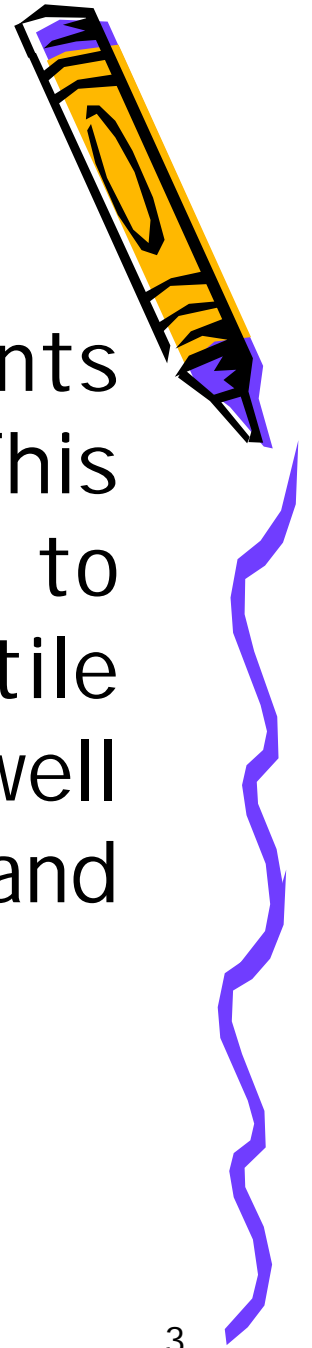
Fall, 2007

What is *Terra Nova* ?

- *Terra Nova* is a norm-referenced nationally standardized **achievement test**.
- **Nationally standardized** means that the test was administered to students across the country. Norms are also set for the time of year the tests are taken.



- In this case over 240,000 students were involved in the norming. This enabled the test designers to establish appropriate percentile scales (norms) indicating how well students of a particular age and grade perform on the test items.



Terra Nova is an **achievement test**, not a proficiency test such as the state administers. Proficiency tests are those in which students have been taught all the content and are now being tested on whether or not they “got” it. Achievement tests include content students may not have been specifically taught, but that they could be expected to have mastered according to their cognitive ability.



Why do Students take the InView tests?

- *InView* is a test of cognitive ability, or the student's natural ability to work with words and with visual concepts. It gives a general "IQ" range.
- Both tests together yield an **anticipated score** that help educators and parent assess a particular child's progress according to his/her ability.



Remember,

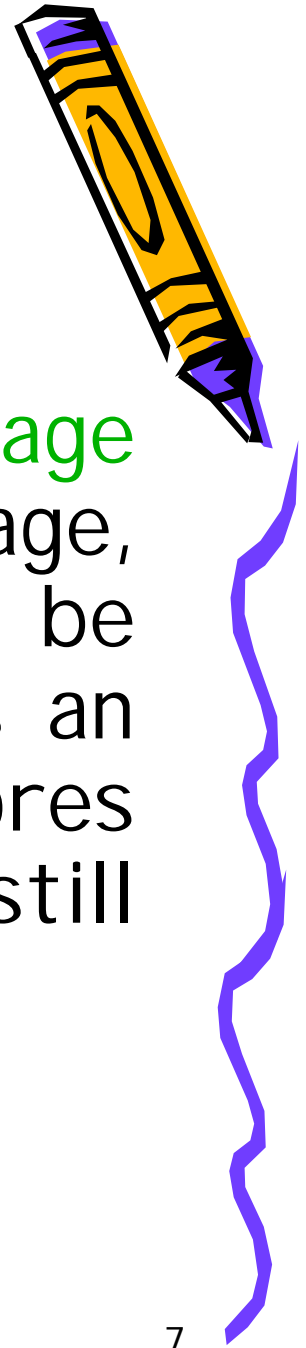
No test, however extensive, can measure a person's total ability or achievement, or pinpoint it exactly.

Inview is a group ability test, and can only indicate a general range of intellectual ability.



What's this "anticipated score"?

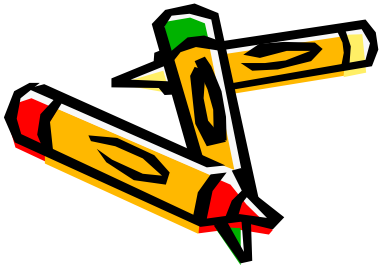
- The anticipated score is the **average** of what students of the same age, grade and ability level could be expected to achieve. Since it is an average, anticipated scores somewhat higher or lower are still within the acceptable range.



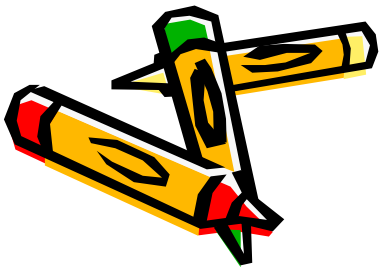


So what does all this tell me about a child's learning?

- The Terra Nova (achievement) scores indicate how well the child is doing in relation to students across the country.
- The *InView* (ability) scores indicate the potential the student has for learning certain concepts.

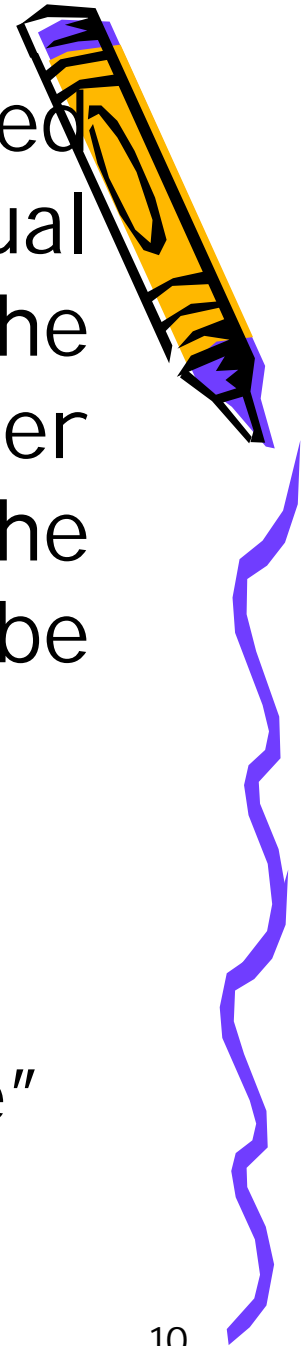


- The anticipated score compared to the achievement score is a general indication of whether the student is meeting his or her potential (is she learning as much as she should?)

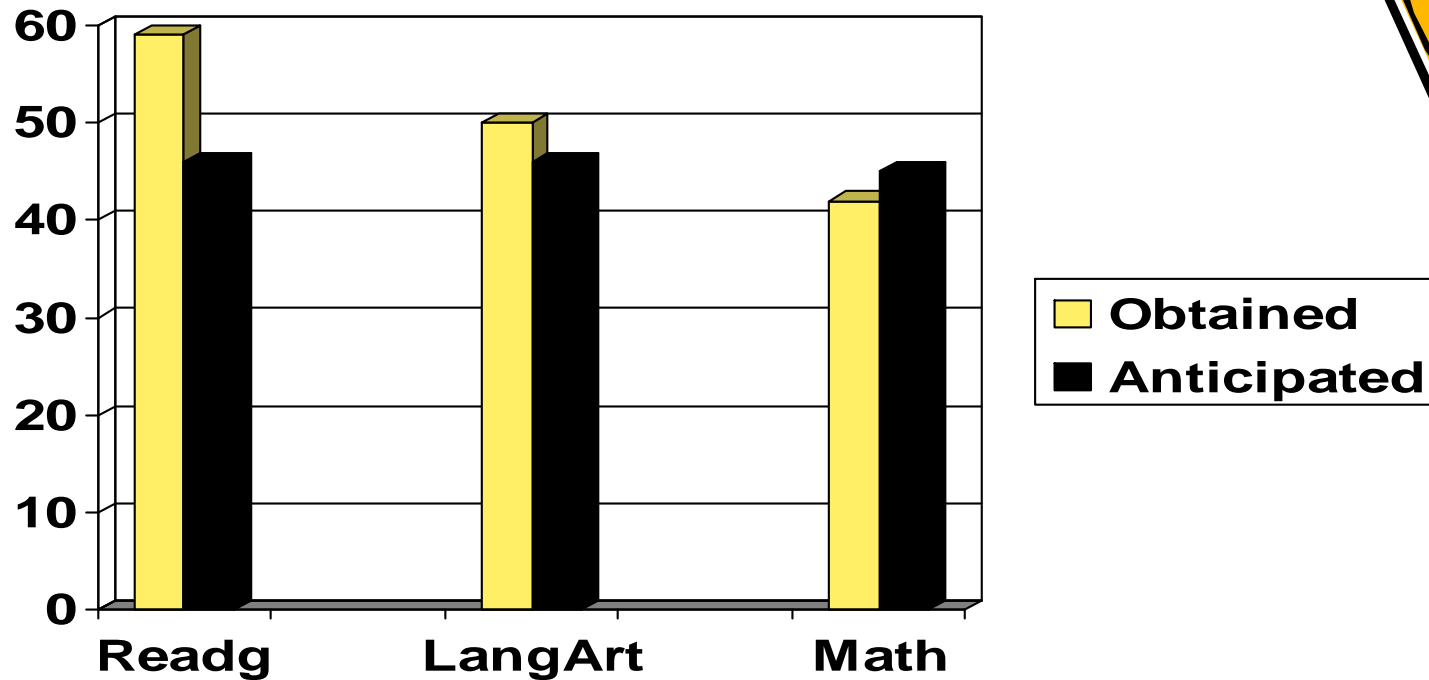


- So if the student's anticipated scores are close to the actual achievement (TN) scores, the student is performing to his or her ability level. He or she is making the kind of progress that could be expected.

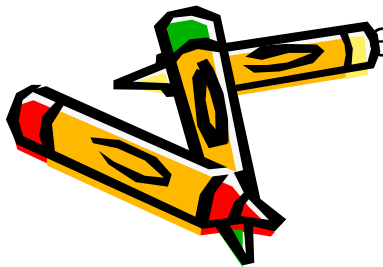
- Scores that are statistically different from what might be expected are indicated "above" or "below" on the report.



Let's look at an example.



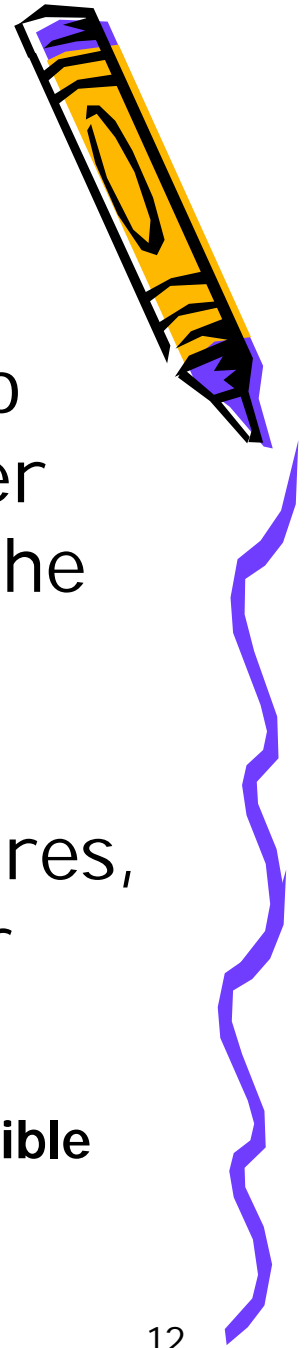
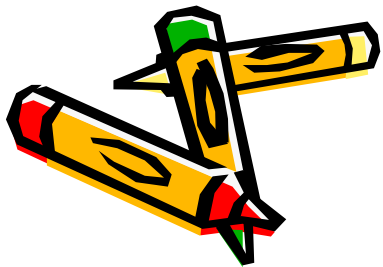
Reading is significantly above the expected, and would be marked "above". This child is doing particularly well in reading. Language arts and math are close to anticipated scores, and should be interpreted as the child doing as expected in those areas.



The important scores, then, are the anticipated scores and the actual achievement scores.

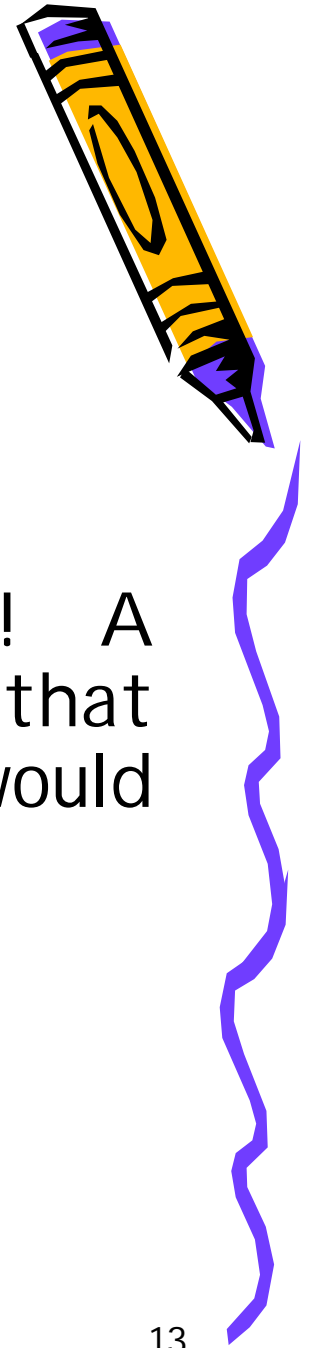
- It is unreasonable to expect a student to perform at a level that is above his or her ability, so if he/she is achieving around the anticipated level, he/she is doing well.
 - Likewise, if the student's scores are significantly below the anticipated scores, he/she is not performing up to his/her ability.

Parents and educators need to examine possible causes and remedies for this situation.

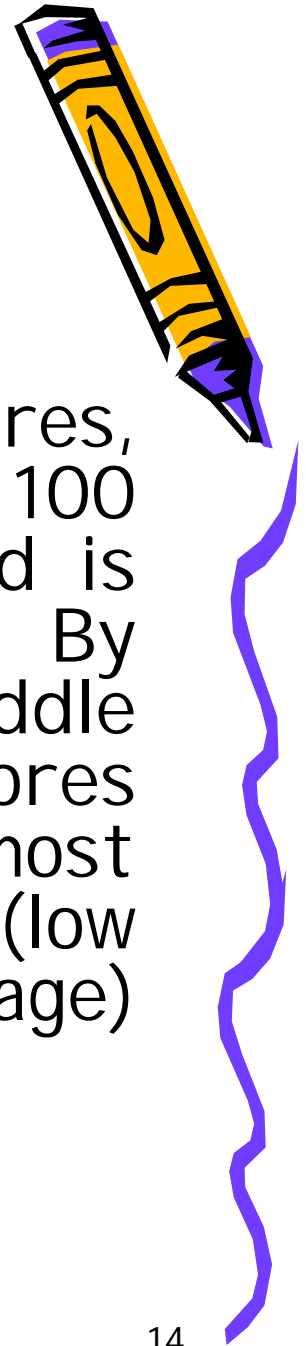


What about those national percentile scores? Aren't scores around 60 pretty bad?!!

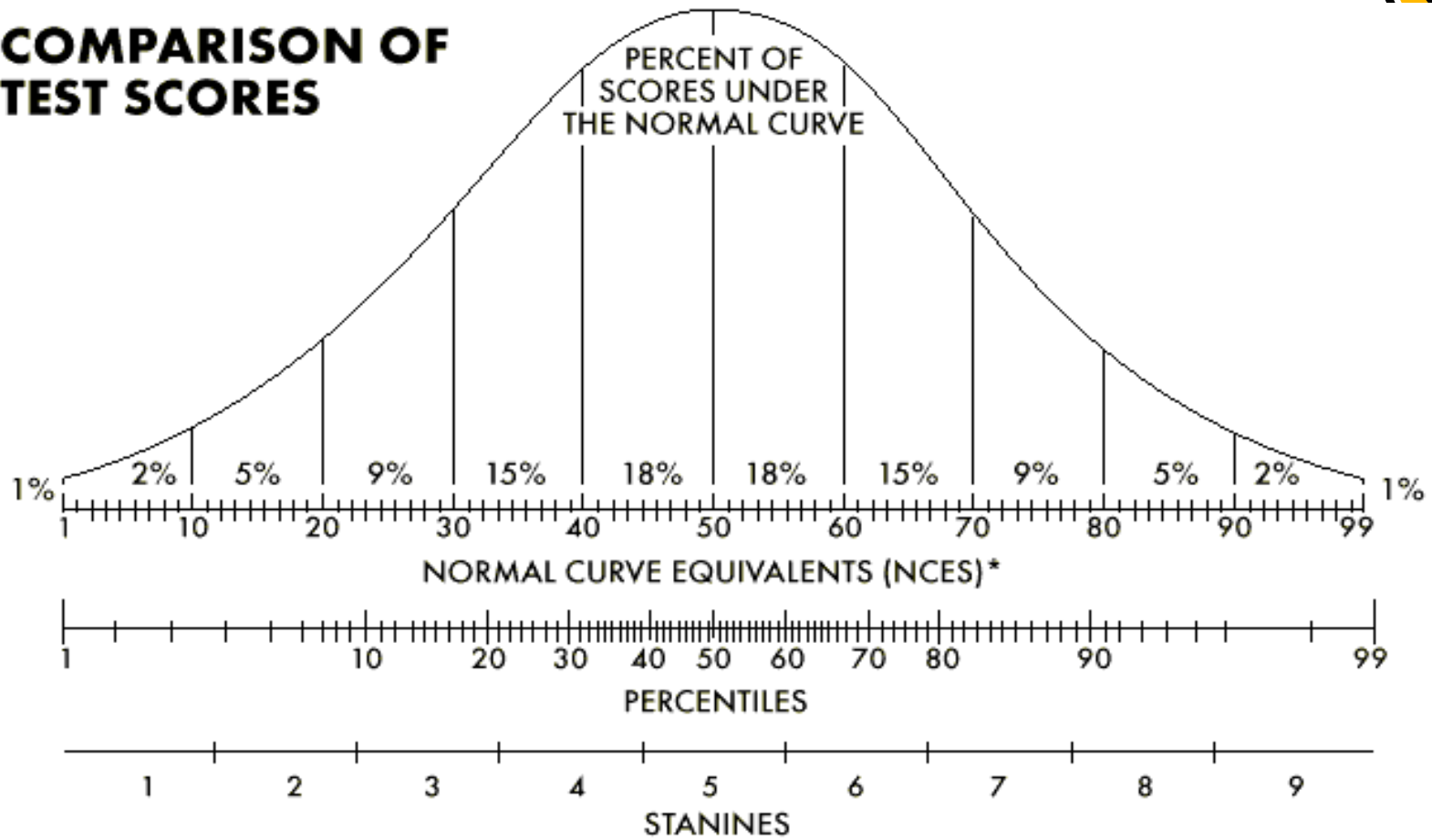
- Percentiles are NOT percentages! A percentile score of 60 does not mean that the child got 6 right out of 10 - that would be a percentage.



- Percentiles are **rank order** scores, indicating that, in a national group of 100 children in the same grade, this child is doing better than 59 of them. By definition, the median (average middle score) percentile is 50. "Average" scores follow a bell-shaped curve, with most students falling between the 25th (low average) and 75th (high average) percentiles.



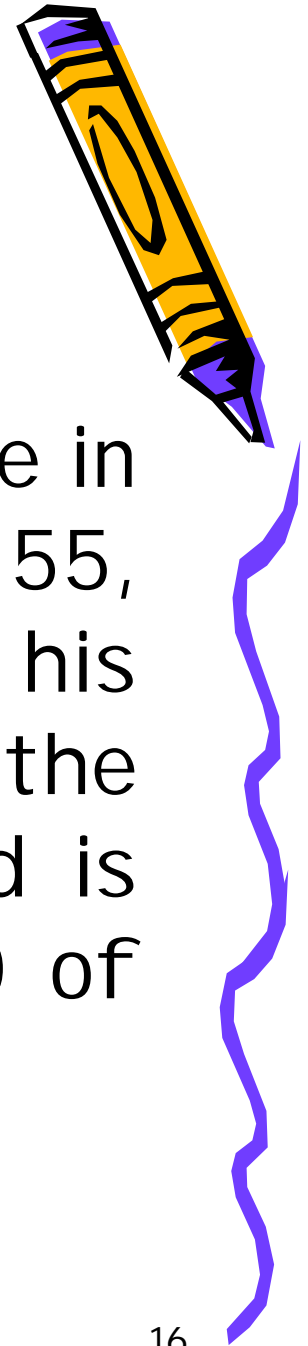
COMPARISON OF TEST SCORES



* The Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) is an equal interval, normalized standard score. In this regard it is similar to the stanine but it is divided into more units. It has a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of 21.06.

So let's see what we have:

- If a student scored 58th percentile in math, and his anticipated score is 55, he is achieving according to his ability (perhaps a bit higher than the average of his ability group), and is doing better than 57 out of 100 of his peers across the country.



- That's it! Now you are ready to check out both individual and grade level performance according to obtained National Percentiles (NP) and anticipated scores.

