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PRESS RELEASE

Jackson, Mississippi
Mississippi Department of Education

Student Test Scores Released from the Spring 2003 Terra Nova (CTBS/5) Norm-Referenced Assessment

During May, Mississippi public school students in Grade 6 were administered the Norm-Referenced Test (NRT). This was the fourth year that this test was administered in the state. The Terra Nova is a commercial achievement test that compares the performance of students in Mississippi to students nationwide. The test produces scores in three content areas - reading, language, and mathematics.

The NRT results for Spring 2003 indicated that Mississippi 6th graders are performing at or above the national average in all three content areas based on the 1996 norm group.

In comparing the same students across two years (Grade 5 in 2002 and Grade 6 in 2003) results were slightly higher in reading and mathematics, and about the same in language.

See the attached table showing the NRT results for 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.