



NNAT3 New Norms FAQ

This FAQ provides a concise overview of NNAT3 new norms, including what norming means, what is changing, and what customers can expect. For additional information, please consult the technical manuals within the application.

- **What is test norming?**

- Test norming is the process of administering an assessment to a large, representative sample of students to establish score benchmarks, or norms. These norms provide a national reference point that helps schools interpret student performance relative to peers.
- Test norming is the process of giving a test to a large, representative group of people (called the norm group) to find out what typical scores look like. These typical scores, or "norms," help us understand performance against a national context.

To norm a test, Pearson first administers it to a carefully selected and diverse sample of students who reflect the intended test population. Those results are then analyzed to develop score interpretations such as average performance levels, percentile ranks, and related score conversions.

Because student populations and performance patterns can change over time, assessments are re-normed periodically to ensure score interpretations remain current, accurate, and relevant for today's students.

- **How often does Pearson update norms?**

- A typical industry range for re-norming is about every 5 to 10 years, although timing can vary based on the assessment, available sample data, and the need to keep score interpretations aligned with current student populations.

- **Have the test forms changed because of the new norms?**

- No. Updating norms does not require changes to the existing NNAT3 forms.

- **Do I need to order or print new test materials?**

- No. A norms update does not mean customers need new printed test materials solely because the norms have changed.

- **What does a norms update affect?**

- A norms update may affect how raw scores are interpreted and reported, including norm-referenced values such as percentile ranks and related score conversions. The purpose is to ensure score reports reflect a current national reference group.



- **Will student scores look different under the new norms?**
 - Possibly. When norms are updated, some norm-referenced scores may change because student performance is being compared to a more current reference group. This does not mean the student's underlying performance changed; it means the comparison group has been refreshed.
- **Does the new norms update change how NNAT3 is administered?**
 - No. NNAT3 administration procedures remain the same. The update applies to score interpretation and reporting rather than to the administration format or test delivery process.
- **Do organizations need to change to new norms for the 2026-2027 school year?**
 - TBD
- **Who can answer questions related to the new norms?**
 - Details will be made available within the technical manuals for the application. These can be accessed within a user account under the support documents. Additional information can be requested from our Customer Support group via email, phone call, or web form.