BRIGANCE ®
Special Education

QUICK-REFERENCE GUIDE

Criterion-Referenced versus Norm-Referenced Assessment

Criterion-Referenced Assessment

Norm-Referenced Assessment

Simple Definition

Measures a student's performance based on mastery of a specific set of skills. It measures what the student knows and doesn't know at the time of assessment. The student's performance is NOT compared to other students' performances on the same assessment.

Measures a student's performance in comparison to the performance of same-age or same-grade students on the same assessment. Normative scoring is based on a bell curve, meaning only half of those tested can score above the 50th percentile.
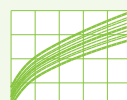
Real-World Examples

Driving Test: Driving tests are designed to **determine if a driver has mastered the skills required to drive on the road safely. Driving tests do not rank drivers against other drivers.** All drivers can get 100% if they master the skills required (and we hope they do)!

End-of-Unit Exams in School: These exams are designed to determine whether students have mastered the material presented in a specific unit. Each student's performance is measured by their mastery of the material **(i.e., what the student knows and doesn't know)** at the time of the test. Again, all students can get 100% if they have fully mastered the material.

Pediatric Growth Charts: Growth charts are commonly used by pediatricians to track a child's growth (e.g., height and weight) **as compared to the growth of other children of the same age and gender**.

The SAT®: A classic example of a norm-referenced test, the SAT is designed to determine a high school student's readiness for college **as compared to the readiness of other high school students**.

Uses in Special Education

- Pinpointing a student's present level of performance
- Writing goals and objectives for an IEP
- Planning individualized instruction
- Monitoring incremental progress

- Initially identifying students who may be eligible for special services
- Supporting ongoing eligibility for special services
- Benchmarking or pretesting and post-testing

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BRIGANCE IED III

The **BRIGANCE Inventory of Early Development III (IED III)** has more than 100 assessments that cover a broad sampling of students' skills and behaviors in key academic and developmental domains.

Age ranges are determined by **developmental age**, meaning the IED III **can be used with any student**—regardless of chronological age—who functions at developmental age levels from birth up to eight years.

The **BRIGANCE Inventory of Early Development III Standardized (IED III Standardized)** covers key academic and developmental domains, includes 55 norm-referenced assessments, and is based on the latest standardization and validation research.

Age ranges are determined by **chronological age**, meaning the IED III Standardized **cannot generate valid scores for anyone eight years or older**—regardless of the student's developmental level.

BRIGANCE TSI 2

The **BRIGANCE Transition Skills Inventory 2 (TSI 2)** includes 100 assessments in key transition skill areas identified by the IDEA guidelines for Indicator 13.

The TSI 2 is designed for use with middle and high school students preparing to transition to life after high school.

i-Ready

From the publisher of BRIGANCE, *i-Ready* provides both criterion-referenced and norm-referenced measures in reading and mathematics in a single online product to deliver a complete picture of a student's performance. *i-Ready*'s criterion-referenced placement levels are available for students in Grades K–12, and normed scores are available for students in Grades K–8.

i-Ready Diagnostic assesses across the following domains:

- **Reading:** Phonics, Phonological Awareness, High-Frequency Words, Vocabulary, Comprehension: Literature, and Comprehension: Informational Text (with an option to view an Overall score for all Comprehension results)
- **Mathematics:** Number and Operations, Algebra and Algebraic Thinking, Geometry, and Measurement and Data

i-Ready Standards Mastery provides flexible, user-defined assessments that allow quick, targeted evaluation of specific Grades 2–8 standards.

For more information on criterion-referenced and norm-referenced assessment tools, please visit BRIGANCE Special Education.

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