

TABLE 25.1

Comparison of Classroom Tests and Standardized Tests

	CLASSROOM TEST	STANDARDIZED TEST
Purpose	Formative and summative	Typically summative
Content	Specific to a content covered in the classroom over a specific time frame	Specific or general topics across many districts or states
Source of items	Created or written by the classroom teacher	Created by a panel of professional experts
Administration procedures	Can be flexible for students with disabilities and special needs	Standardized across all settings and individuals
Length	Usually short—less than an hour	Usually very long—several hours
Scoring procedures	Typically teacher scored	Typically machine scored
Reliability	Typically low	Typically high
Scores	Individual's number or percentage correct (raw score)	Compared to predetermined criteria or norm group (converted from raw score)
Grading	Used to assign a course grade	Used to determine general ability or achievement; not used to assign course grade

SOURCE: Haladyna, 2002.