TIP SHEET FOR DISTRICTS

**Communicating the Purpose and Value of the NSCAS Summative Assessment**

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| **Sample newsletter article**  **or  blog post** | **New NSCAS Summative assessment measures student performance**  ***Takes less time, reveals deeper information, and helps address learning roadblocks*** This school year, the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) Summative assessment replaces the Nebraska School Accountability (NeSA) tests in:   * English language arts and math for grades 3–8 * Science for grades 5 and 8   This new, computer-adaptive culminating assessment measures student performance against Nebraska’s content area standards, showing how learning compares to expectations.  The NSCAS (pronounced, “en-skass”) Summative assessment adapts dynamically based on each student’s ability and includes innovative, interactive question formats that engage students and enable them to demonstrate higher order thinking. As a result, it will take less time for students to complete and will provide deeper information about what they know.  Students of all abilities will be able to participate via accommodations and the NSCAS Alternate assessment.  Starting in 2019, results will be available shortly after all students have tested, enabling educators and parents to quickly address roadblocks to student progress, ahead of the next school year.   At the high school level, the ACT college entrance exam, provided to all juniors, will continue to serve as the summative assessment in English language arts, math, and science.  [Learn more](https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/) about the NSCAS Summative assessment at: https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/ |
| **Sample newsletter article**  **or**  **blog post** | **NSCAS Summative testing window opens soon!**  The NSCAS Summative testing window for grades 3–8 is coming right up! Testing dates are March 19–April 27, 2018 and make-up week is April 30–May 4, 2018. Don’t forget to make sure your child(ren) get a good night’s rest, eat breakfast on the day of the assessment, and stay positive!  The NSCAS Summative is a new computer-based adaptive assessment replacing NeSA that is built from Nebraska’s College and Career Ready standards. It adapts dynamically based on each student’s ability, challenging top performers without overwhelming students whose skills are below grade level.  Results from the spring 2018 administration will be available in the fall of 2018. Starting in 2019, results will be available shortly after the close of the testing window, giving parents and educators valuable information about student performance ahead of the next school year.  Learn more about the NSCAS Summative assessment at: https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/ |
| **Sample Tweet #1** | New #NSCAS Summative assessment replaces Nebraska School Accountability (NeSA) tests to measure student performance. [@NDE\_GOV](https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/) https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/ |
| **Sample Tweet #2** | New #NSCAS Summative assessment takes less time, reveals deeper information, and helps quickly address learning roadblocks. [@NDE\_GOV](https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/) https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/ |
| **Sample Tweet #3** | New #NSCAS Summative assessment built from #Nebraska College and Career Ready standards with help from #Nebraska educators. [@NDE\_GOV](https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/) https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/ |
| **Facebook** | This school year, the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) Summative Assessment has replaced the Nebraska School Accountability (NeSA) tests in:   * English language arts and math for grades 3–8 * Science for grades 5 and 8   This new, computer-adaptive culminating assessment measures student performance against Nebraska’s content area standards, showing how learning compares to expectations.  Learn more about how the NSCAS Summative assessment takes less time, reveals deeper information, and enables educators to address learning roadblocks.https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/ |

**Summative Assessment Key Messages**

**The NSCAS Summative assessment:**

* Is built from with Nebraska’s College and Career Ready standards with help from Nebraska educators.
* Yields deeper and more precise insights into students’ grade-level performance.
* Maximizes classroom time and enables timely intervention to support student learning.
* Provides a stable and secure testing experience, reducing stress for students and educators.
* Creates opportunity for students of all abilities to participate via accommodations and alternate assessments.

**The NSCAS Alternate assessment:**

* Aligns to Nebraska’s College and Career Ready Standards with Extended Indicators.
* Provides meaningful access to grade-level content for students characterized by significant cognitive disabilities.
* Maximizes potential for direct student interaction with the alternate assessment via the new online administration procedure, which also reduces administration effort and leads to faster delivery of results.

**The NSCAS ACT College entrance exam:**

* Is the summative assessment in English language arts, math, and science at the high school level and is administered in the spring to all high school juniors.\*
* Provides more postsecondary opportunities for students in Nebraska.
* Brings increased rigor, relevance, and expectations for students.

\* *An alternate exam will be available for the one percent of students who qualify for having significant cognitive disabilities.*