

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) is a statewide assessment system that embodies Nebraska's holistic view of students. It aims to provide educators with multiple types of assessment data for instructional purposes throughout the year. The system and its supports provide valuable information to schools and districts as they prepare students for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life.

Four Core Components of NSCAS:



Formative Practices

- What:** Checks for student understanding during instruction
- When:** As needed, daily in the classroom throughout the year
- Why:** To help teachers address student learning needs in-the-moment



Interim Assessment

- What:** Assessments administered at different intervals between instruction
- When:** Given periodically (typically fall/winter/spring)
- Why:** To help educators better understand student learning needs and determine growth toward learning goals



Summative Assessment

NSCAS General Summative—Grades 3–8*

- What:** A statewide computer-adaptive assessment for English language arts and math for grades 3–8 and science for grades 5 and 8
- When:** Annually in the spring
- Why:** Measure student performance against Nebraska's content area standards, identify student learning needs, maximize classroom time

NSCAS ACT—Grade 11

- What:** A college entrance exam that is the summative assessment at the high school level
- When:** Administered for free annually in the spring for all third-year cohort students
- Why:** Meeting expectations on the ACT indicates college readiness in Nebraska students

*Spring 2021 tests for grades 3–8 are transitional and designed to support an improved testing approach that will be implemented in 2021-22.



Professional Learning

- What:** Districts, schools, and the Nebraska Department of Education provide a variety of professional learning opportunities to teachers to support them in using assessment results to inform instruction
- When:** According to each district's schedule
- Why:** To support educators—and by extension parents—in their use of assessment data to accelerate student learning at all levels