

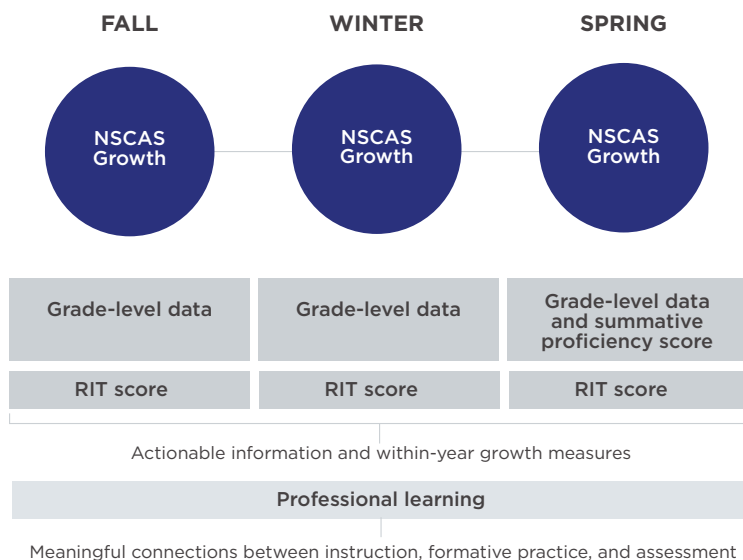
# NSCAS Growth: Unifying Interim and Summative Measures to Support Learning and Instruction

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) was developed to support the connection between curriculum, instruction, and assessment. It includes formative, interim, and summative (proficiency) measures, with the recognition that educators need different types of data to inform teaching and learning.

The goal from day one has been to make assessment more useful in the classroom, so the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) has been working with Nebraska districts to increase the instructional relevance of summative data and reduce the challenges teachers and students face in managing both interim and summative tests.

As part of this effort, Nebraska is transitioning to NSCAS Growth, an adaptive, through-year assessment for grades 3–8 in English language arts and mathematics that produces instructionally-relevant information and also measures proficiency to increase testing efficiency and utility of assessment results.

In the 2021–22 school year, Nebraska districts will have the opportunity to pilot NSCAS Growth in the winter term and all Nebraska districts will administer NSCAS Growth in the spring. In the 2022–23 school year, NSCAS Growth will replace MAP® Growth™ and the NSCAS General Summative test.



## NSCAS Growth produces growth and summative scores

NSCAS Growth unifies state and district tests in a single through-year approach designed to support instruction and improve equitable learning opportunities with results that are actionable at both the classroom and systems level. This assessment measures student performance relative to Nebraska's grade-level expectations while also adapting below and beyond grade-level as needed to reveal student learning needs. Each test informs the next and summative proficiency scores are produced at year's end. As a result, educators have access to normative and criterion-referenced information throughout the year to support teaching and learning and there is no longer a need to administer a traditional summative test.

## Formative practice and professional learning support informed action

The NDE will continue to support formative instructional practice with professional learning and resources that support educators in connecting students' achievement levels with tangible examples of the skills they are likely ready to learn. Online learning content and blended onsite and remote workshops led by Nebraska-certified facilitators will also challenge traditional notions about the purpose and timing of assessments and support Nebraska educators in learning about the multiple data types produced by NSCAS Growth. Sessions will equip educators to use growth and grade-level performance information, alongside other sources of knowledge and professional judgment, to inform instruction and improve student learning.

# Supporting Educational Equity with Actionable Results

## Retaining what educators value in interim assessment

### NSCAS Growth will:

- Take about the same time as MAP Growth to complete for each content area
- Measure student performance and growth irrespective of grade level, within and across years
- Produce RIT information in fall, winter, and spring
- Provide access to norms from NWEA® so growth can be considered in context of similar students nationwide
- Be adaptive, accounting for differences in scope and sequence (honor district-level decisions)
- Transform the Learning Continuum into a new tool rooted in Nebraska's Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)
- Support student mobility (scores and longitudinal history will follow students when they transfer schools and/or districts)

## Retaining and improving the best of NSCAS General Summative

### NSCAS Growth will:

- Reflect the voice of Nebraska educators in the assessment system
- Measure student performance relative to grade-level expectations, adding criterion-referenced information to reports in fall, winter, and spring
- Produce information based on Nebraska's ALDs to better support teachers in helping students reach and exceed standards-based learning targets
- Provide multiple chances for students to demonstrate proficiency (and beyond) while also reducing the retesting of students on concepts they have already mastered

## Information produced by NSCAS Growth

What	When
RIT information, including access to norms	Fall, winter, spring
Grade-level data based on indicators used to determine summative proficiency	Fall, winter, spring
Projected summative proficiency scores	Fall, winter
Official summative proficiency scores and classification	Spring

## Timeline

**2021–2022:** Nebraska districts will administer MAP Growth in the fall and will have the opportunity to participate in an NSCAS Growth pilot in the winter. In the spring, all districts will administer NSCAS Growth in lieu of the NSCAS General Summative test. As this is a transition year, districts may still wish to administer MAP Growth in the winter and spring terms.

**2022–2023:** NSCAS Growth will be fully operational. All Nebraska districts will administer NSCAS Growth in the fall, winter, and spring in place of MAP Growth and the NSCAS General Summative test.

