

2021-2022 NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (NSCAS)

2022 COVID-19 WAIVER for NSCAS - English Language Arts-Mathematics-Science Tests/ACT/ELPA 21

Directions: Please fill out all fields on the form legibly, include the calendar dates when the student was not in attendance. **Please provide a brief description of the circumstance(s) for the request of the waiver, including the amount and the kind of educational services student is receiving for the circumstance(s).**

FAX completed pages 2 & 3 to 402-742-2319

DISTRICT INFORMATION		
District Name	District Code	Date Submitted
School Name	Waiver requested by	Position
Phone	Email	
I attest that this student meets the requirements stated above for a COVID-19 waiver.		
Signed		(Administrator Requesting Waiver)
DAC INFORMATION		
DAC Name		DAC Email:
STUDENT INFORMATION		
First Name	Last Name	
State Student ID	Grade	
List dates that student was absent during the test window:	Check all tests that apply to this waiver – ELPA21 (Feb 7 – Mar 18, 2022) NSCAS General (Mar 21 – May 6, 2022): ELA Math Science NSCAS Alternate (Mar 21 – May 6, 2022): ELA Math Science NSCAS ACT: Window 1 (Mar 22 – 31, 2022) Window 2 (Apr 5 – 15, 2022) Make-up Window (Apr 19 – Apr 29, 2022)	
Provide a brief description of the reason for the COVID-19 waiver. See directions at the top of the page.		
STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT OFFICE <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DENIED NDE Signature:		Date:

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COVID-19 WAIVER PHYSICIAN SIGNATURE

Explanation to the Medical Professional: The Nebraska Department of Education strives to ensure that all students have equitable opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills on NSCAS tests. State tests are mandatory for every student grades 3-8, and 11 who is enrolled in a public school. The ELPA21 is required for every English Learner (EL) in grades K-12 who is enrolled in a public school.

Nebraska Department of Education requests schools to provide physician-signed medical waivers in cases where risks of COVID-19 medical emergency prevent a student from participating in the NSCAS tests.

If the school is otherwise providing education with accommodations to the student for an on-going medical condition or permanent disability, that is not considered a basis for a medical waiver on the NSCAS tests. Districts are able to provide the tests to the students at locations outside of the school buildings and/or may make other allowable accommodations appropriate to the students' medical needs in order for them to participate in testing.

Student's Name:

School District:

By signing below, I attest that the student named above is either mentally or physically unable to test due to a the COVID-19 virus, or that participation in the test may be harmful to the student.

The student above should be excused from participating in the 2022 NSCAS state tests.

Date

Signature of Medical Professional:

Name of Medical Professional:

City, State

Name of hospital or clinic:

Medical Professional - Please return this form to the school district that made the request. The school district will submit your statement with their request for a waiver.



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COVID-19 WAIVER REQUIREMENTS

The Nebraska Department of Education strives to ensure that all students have equitable opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills on the NSCAS tests. A COVID-19 waiver may be granted by the Statewide Assessment Office when a student cannot take the assessment during the testing window due to an extended quarantine and/or affliction with COVID-19.

NDE values and trusts the medical opinion of medical professionals; however, they must be informed of the guidelines for testing prior to providing excused waivers for students. Nebraska districts are charged with providing education to all students, regardless of their disability. A waiver is not intended for use for a permanent disability or if the student is otherwise receiving education services from the district or other provider.

This document is provided to help districts determine whether a COVID-19 waiver is justified. To maintain the confidentiality of students' medical situations, actual medical records are not to be included with the COVID-19 waiver.

If you have questions about an individual situation, please do not hesitate to contact the assessment office at 402-314-3013.

COVID-19 Guidance:

Districts should follow these guidelines before submitting a COVID-19 Waiver:

- The district invited the student to take the assessments in person. The invitation was sent through multiple modalities and included a detailed description of precautions that would be utilized to minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- The districts developed a detailed plan using the latest local, state, and national guidelines to provide all students an opportunity to test in person while minimizing the risk of students being exposed to and contracting COVID-19.
- Districts provided at least two opportunities for each student to test (Think of this as an original opportunity and make-up opportunity). If the family had concerns of their child contracting COVID-19, provide page 2 of this waiver for medical recommendation and signature.
- The district communicated the following information to students and families.
 - Testing all students is a part of both state and federal law.
 - Testing results provides useful data for schools, districts, state, and national policy makers.
 - Testing results provide useful data for school improvement efforts.
- District communication does not have to try to persuade students/families to test but the communication should also not try to dissuade students/families. The district should provide objective facts about the assessment, the results, and the risk of contracting COVID-19 so that students/families can make the best-informed decisions for themselves.
- The district made all reasonable efforts to ensure that students were tested or had opportunities to test.