

NSCAS Alternate Guidance for NOR Code

Definition of NOR (student not responsive) – the student is unable to interact and respond to any item on the test.

Districts may not predetermine that a student is unable to interact or respond to the assessment.

For districts to make this decision proctors should attempt to administer at least one question to the student. Proctors may stop at any point following the first item if the student was not responsive and there is reason/evidence to believe that the student will not be responsive to any additional question. Best practice would be to provide more than one opportunity for each student to respond to an item for each content area assessment. Proctors do not have to attempt the first question but can select the item that is appropriate for the cognitive level of the student.

All students must attempt at least one question for each content area assessment that they are required to take. For example, a staff member proctoring alternate assessments to a fifth-grade student must administer at least one question in each of the three content areas: English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

As stated in the administration manual: This *NSCAS Alternate Administration Manual* is designed to help teachers administer the NSCAS Alternate assessments accurately and efficiently. Test Administrators are urged to become familiar with their responsibilities in this *NSCAS Alternate Administration Manual* before testing to ensure the success of the NSCAS Alternate program. This provides an opportunity for proctors to review what the items are like to help them determine what assessment questions would be most appropriate for all students, especially those who might not be responsive for any item.

As with all students that qualify for alternate NSCAS assessments, students may take it in one of two modes: either paper/pencil or an online assessment, whichever version is best for the student. However, if a district determines the paper/pencil version is the best option for the student, the IEP team must note this in the student's IEP.

If a student is not likely to be responsive to any item, NDE recommends using the online version. The online version will track that a student was provided an opportunity to engage with the assessment as required by law. This helps both NDE and the district track participation during the test window. Additionally, the online version is most likely to be easier logistically because it requires less printing, less handling of secure materials, and makes one less document to be destroyed at the conclusion of testing.

If a student has had an opportunity to engage with each required content assessment using the paper/pencil mode, proctors do not need to log into each secure assessment with the student test ticket. Instead, the district may mark, student not responsive (NOR) for each content area. **By marking NOR district officials are verifying that the student has an opportunity to engage in each content assessment required at that grade level. Please keep in mind if the proctor does not log into the secure assessment, then it is more difficult for NDE and/or district officials to help track participation and help ensure required participation.**

For proctors using the online assessment, they do not have to scroll through the whole test but may go to the last page and hit submit. On the first item page on the left-hand side at the top it says Question 1, there is a drop down there for you to select any item on the test by its number. You select that number, and it will take you to that question. Once you open the test and have logged in and started there is a box at the bottom of every item page that states Review/End Test. Select this box and it takes you to the last page where you can select end test. The next page you will be prompted to select the submit button. This will help NDE and districts track students who are not responsive to any item and have attempted each content assessment.