

### 2024 - 2025 TIMELINE of Activities:

February 15, 2024 - Special Education Advisory Committee meeting - shared information on the supports being written to support educators in the classroom and discussed Indicator 3 data. (completed)

February 13 - 15, 2024 - Professional Development provided in Scottsbluff, Ainsworth, and Kearney for teachers who work with students who qualify for the alternate assessment on how to write lessons and use the instructional supports that are written to support the Extended Indicators. (completed)

February 20 - 22, 2024 - Professional Development provided in Auburn, Norfolk, and Omaha for teachers who work with students who qualify for the alternate assessment on how to write lessons and use the instructional supports that are written to support the Extended Indicators. (completed)

February 29, 2024 - Special Education Monthly Webinar - information shared on statewide assessment, testing dates, use of appropriate accommodations and talking about proctor training on test administration available on the NDE website. (completed)

March 29, 2024 - Special Education Monthly Webinar - information shared on statewide assessment, testing window dates, reminder of making sure students are getting the supports they need to show growth on goals and classroom work, use of appropriate accommodations and if any questions please contact NDE. (completed)

April 1, 2024 - May 10, 2024 - NSCAS Administration Window (completed)

April 1, 2024 - Alternate Assessment Observation in selected district by NDE Staff (process to determine what districts are observed NDE looks at increase of identified students for the AAS, students who may have scored advanced on previous years assessment, identified as a district who had a misadministration in previous year, are testing SLD or SLI students and a mixture of district size and location.) (completed)

April 2, 2024 - Assessment and Special Education meeting - collaboration meeting to talk about assessment information and who should be doing what for assessment with testing window open. (completed)

April 10 - May 10, 2024 - Alternate Assessment Observations completed in selected district by NDE Staff (completed) (next year NDE will add observations in programs that serve students with the most significant cognitive disability)

April 18 and 19, 2024 - NASES - Nebraska Association of Special Education Supervisors meeting - discussions on identification of alternate assessment students, meeting the ESSA 1% threshold requirement, and how Nebraska is required to meet this and what can we as a state do to work on achieving this. (completed)

April 30, 2024 - Special Education Monthly Webinar - Updates on assessment provided - NSCAS window closes on May 10, 2024, all assessments need to be completed on May 10. (completed)

May 5 - 14, 2024 - Nebraska teachers reviewed Math ALDs draft (provided input so that NDE could finalize them for the Math Standard Setting process in July.) (completed)

May 31, 2024 - Special Education Monthly Webinar - looking for special education educators who would be interested in participating in the Math standard process in July (this gives educators an idea of how cut scores are determined and the characteristics of students who qualify for the alternate assessment) (completed)

July 23 - 26, 2024 - Nebraska Educators participated in Math Standard process (provided input on what cut scores should be for the Math alternate assessment) (completed)

July 24, 2024 - NDE Administrator Day - Assessment Presentations - updates on alternate assessment included (available to any educator attending) (completed)

August 25, 2024 - Part B meeting - discussions on identified districts for Special Education IEP monitoring which will be aligned with alternate assessment monitoring. (completed)

August 30, 2024 - Special Education Monthly Webinar - discussion on the importance of identification of students who have a most significant cognitive disability, introduced the new/updated NDE guidance on identification of eligibility for the alternate assessment and implications of Nebraska not meeting the 1% Threshold (completed)

September 9, 2024 - NSCAS Roadshow in Scottsbluff, NE - statewide assessment office presented at sites across the state to share new, updated and deadlines to districts (completed)

September 19, 2024 - NSCAS Roadshow in Auburn, NE - statewide assessment office presented at sites across the state to share new, updated and deadlines to districts. (completed)

September 23, 2024 - NSCAS Roadshow in Kearney, NE - statewide assessment office presented at sites across the state to share new, updated and deadlines to districts (completed)

September 24, 2024 - NSCAS Roadshow in Norfolk, NE - statewide assessment office presented at sites across the state to share new, updated and deadlines to districts (completed)

September 26-27, 2024 - NeMTSS statewide conference - lots of sessions provided on instructional practices, how to provides support to students with disabilities and how to include students in the general classroom. Nebraska has a statewide Journey to Inclusion initiative in place. NeMTSS Statewide Summit - open to anyone in the state (Nebraska has a statewide plan to assist all districts if creating an MTSS process and have a website that supports NeMTSS along with PBIS, there are also regional consultants available across the state to support districts) (completed)

September 30, 2024 - Special Education Monthly Webinar - information presented again on the new/updated NDE guidance on making the appropriate eligibility decisions for participation on the alternate assessment. (completed)

October 1, 2024 - Quarterly meeting between Assessment office and Special Education Office - discussion about data and when it will be available for SPED office to review (completed)

October 8, 2024 - NSCAS Roadshow for Lincoln/ Omaha area, held at SAC Museum Ashland, NE - statewide assessment office presented at sites across the state to share new, updated and deadlines to districts (Link to presentation: <https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/#curr-assess-pres>) (completed)

October 21 - October 28, 2024 - received and reviewed alternate assessment data on participation information for each district (completed)

October 28 and 30, 2024 - created trend data charts for each district. (completed)

October 30, 2024 - Part B RDA Stakeholder Meeting - discussion of special education areas of concern and state determinations, concerns on the new AAS guidance and how it could affect services and IEP decisions (completed)

October 31, 2024 - Special Education Monthly Webinar - review of the new/updated NDE guidance on identification of students for the alternate assessment, reminded districts that they needed to review every student who is flagged as an alternate assessment student to make sure they meet the new/update eligibility requirements, and shared that state results were shared with districts, DACs and Special Education Directors. (completed)

November 6 - 8, 2024 - threshold document, justification documents and other supporting information emailed to all districts (due date to have them completed and returned was December 4, 2024) (introduction letter, trend data charts specific to each district with their overall participation for ELA, Math, and Science, Threshold Exception Document, Justification Support Worksheet) (See Attachments 6, 7, 8, 14) (completed)

November 14, 2024 - Assessment, Accountability Advisory Committee Meeting - stakeholder discussion on many assessment topics including alternate assessment.  
(completed)

November 22, 2024 - Special Education Monthly Webinar - reminder on the new/updated guidance and that 1% information is due to NDE no later than December 4, 2024.  
(completed)

November 21 - December 31, 2024 - read, review, and respond to districts submitted 1% information (ongoing until all districts have submitted all necessary required information)

December 4, 2024 - 1% submissions due to NDE (this includes all required information, what is submitted depends on if they are over the 1% threshold, if they have students but are not over the 1% or do not have any students at all) (completed)

December 14, 2024 - Special Education Advisory Committee meeting - update on Alternate Assessment and APR/SPP Indicators (gathered information and questions from members)  
(completed)

December 11, 2024 - public comment period opens. (completed)

December 22, 2024 - public comment period closes.

December 23, 2024 - submit waiver request to USDOE.

January 3 - 31, 2025 - Districts will be provided their data for years 2022, 2023 and 2024 for disproportionality. District will be required to submit a plan of action to NDE.

January 13 - 24, 2025 - NDE will review performance levels of all students who took the 2024 Alternate Assessment (this will allow NDE to see where students are performing and if there are any students who are at the advanced level. NDE will then reach out to those districts to talk about those students and if they were identified correctly.)

January 31, 2025 - Special Education Monthly Webinar - will share information with districts about the online alternate assessment training tools available for staff and students that address administration of the assessment and practice tests. Share information on identification of eligibility for the alternate assessment and remind directors and DACs about the upcoming training on the DRC portal and how to handle setup for the administration of the assessment.

February 13, 2025 - Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting - update on Alternate Assessment, waiver, and participation numbers.

February 20, 2025 - English Language Arts Instructional Supports Professional Development provided virtually (any special education and EL educators who work with students who meet the eligibility requirements as a student with the most significant

cognitive disability may attend and will learn how to effectively use the instructional supports documents that are available on NDE's assessment and sped websites.)

February 28, 2025 - Science Instructional Supports Professional Development provided virtually (any special education and EL educators who work with students who meet the eligibility requirements as a student with the most significant cognitive disability may attend and will learn how to effectively use the instructional supports documents that are available on NDE's assessment and sped websites.)

February 26, 2025 - Special Education Monthly Webinar - will share and remind districts of the information about the online alternate assessment training tools available for staff and students that address administration of the assessment and practice tests.

March 4, 2025 - Math Instructional Supports Professional Development provided virtually (any special education and EL educators who work with students who meet the eligibility requirements as a student with the most significant cognitive disability may attend and will learn how to effectively use the instructional supports documents that are available on NDE's assessment and sped websites.)

March 24, 2025 - May 2, 2025 - testing window - **observations of administration of Alternate Assessment in districts will be completed at this time. This year we are adding observations in area programs that serve students with a most significant cognitive disability.**

March 31, 2025 - Special Education Monthly Webinar - will share and remind districts of the information about the online alternate assessment training tools available for staff and students that address administration of the assessment and practice tests and the importance of giving students access to practice prior to taking the assessment. Share that the testing window opened March 24, 2025, through May 2, 2025. Remind districts that NDE will be reaching out to districts to set up observation times of the alternate assessment being administered.

April 2, 2025 - Special Education and Assessment collaboration meeting to talk about assessment and special education assessment data.

April 24, 2025 - Special Education Monthly Webinar - will remind districts of the last day that assessments can be administered - May 2, 2025, and the importance to make sure you attempting to test all students with disabilities.

April 24, 2025 - Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting - update on Alternate Assessment and discuss updates on the SPP/AYP submission.

May 2, 2025 - assessment window closes.

June 9 - 13, 2025 - Item Writing for the field test items in all content areas for the 2026 NSCAS administration. Nebraska educators are brought in and trained on how to write effective and measurable items that are aligned to our alternate assessment. Teachers are also given the opportunity to share what they feel is working and where they may need to be some revisions.

Summer 2025 - NDE will be working with NWEA to create a new alternate assessment for the 2026 since they will be the vendor for the alternate assessment starting in 2026.

NDE provides a weekly DAC Newsletter to provide districts with deadlines and information that is due or needs to be submitted. This is delivered by email every Tuesday. This includes information on all assessments which includes the alternate assessment. There is an example in the attachments. These start in September and run through May.

NDE also holds weekly DAC webinars on Fridays from 12:00 to 1:00 to provide timely information about all assessments and answer any questions that districts may have. If there are not any topics that need discussing the webinar may be canceled.

NDE staff participated in the following:

CCSSO/ASES Meetings

NCSA

Bi-weekly 1% Community of Practice (NCEO) zoom meetings