

Nebraska Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Nebraska Department of Education
February 20, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of minutes: October 16, 2025, and November 12, 2025 (Chair, Chad Buckendahl, Document 1 and 2)

Recognition of service – Linda Poole

8:45 a.m. NWEA

Document 3: PowerPoint – NSCAS Technical Advisory Committee February 20, 2026

- *Differential Item Functioning (DIF) – NSCAS General*
- *Item Drift/Parameter Updates*
- *Field Testing Passage Items*
- *Item Release Plan*

Document 4: NSCAS General Assessment – Item Release Plan

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Derek Ippensen – Accountability

11:15 a.m. Allyson DenBeste – Early Literacy Screener

Document 5: NDR NRIA Final Report Amended

Document 6: Feb 2026 Updated Approved Assessment Communication

- The NDE will delay any changes to the current Approved Assessment list to the 2027-2028 school year. Based on the NRIA Final Report, while we are confident that we have identified some assessments that are more appropriate than others, we would like to seek relevant input from the Assessment Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Assessment and Accountability Advisory Committee (AAAC) and the Nebraska Literacy Advisory Panel.
- We have heard important feedback from districts that any changes to screeners require additional time for vendor contracts and educator professional learning.
- Additional factors that must be considered also include LB 1050, which would require third grade students who are not reading on grade level to be retained. The text of the bill as introduced relies on reading screener assessments to “identify students who are able to read at or above grade level.” If LB 1050 is enacted as law, the stakes would be even higher for the approved screeners.
- We continue to pursue a three-phase grant that would provide funding and professional learning for a preferred screener. Our proposal has made it to Phase 2 and the due date for our Phase 3 application is May 1, 2026.

Adjourn

Next TAC meeting