NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Summative Assessment Administration and Reporting Plan

Nebraska Department of Education Summative Assessment Administration and Reporting Plan includes information for the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) for the 2026-2027 school year.

- The State Board of Education has adopted Nebraska College and Career Ready (CCR) standards for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. The assessment plan reflects the transition of the statewide summative assessments to measure Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards.
- Per ESSA and 79-760.03, the statewide summative assessment must measure the students' knowledge and skills according to the standards adopted by the Nebraska State Board of Education.
    - o English Language Arts assessments transitioned to measure CCR in spring 2017. The State Board of Education approved the updated standards in 2021, and they were first assessed in Spring 2023. ELA standards will be up for revision in Spring of 2027 and will be up for board approval in Fall of 2028.
    - o Mathematics assessments transitioned to measure CCR in spring 2018. The State Board of Education approved the updated standards in 2022, and they were first assessed in Spring 2024. Math standards will be up for revision in Spring 2028 and then will be up for board approval in Fall 2029.
    - o Science assessments transitioned to measure CCR in spring 2022. The State Board of Education approved the updated standards in 2024, and they will be first assessed in Spring 2026. Science standards will be up for revision in Fall 2030.
- Student results from all statewide assessments in Nebraska are reported using three categories of achievement.
    - o Assessments that evaluate Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards—both general assessments (grades 3–8) and alternate assessments (grades 3–8 and high school)—report results using three performance levels.
        - ▪ **Developing:** Developing learners **do not yet demonstrate proficiency** in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student may need additional support for academic success at the next grade level.
        - ▪ **On Track:** On track learners **demonstrate proficiency** in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.

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- **Advanced:** Advanced learners **demonstrate high levels of proficiency** in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.

- Content area assessments that are measured with the ACT report three performance levels:
  - Developing
  - On Track
  - ACT Benchmark

  Note: Students who score at the On Track and ACT Benchmark levels are identified as meeting expectations.

- Districts are required to test students on a nationally normed referenced test for the purpose of comparing Nebraska student achievement to other states.
  - MAP Growth data has been the nationally normed reference test data districts have used to meet the Rule 10 requirement. While items may be aligned to Nebraska state standards, they are not written to specific Nebraska content standards.
  - NSCAS Growth provided national normed percentile information for this purpose for the first time in spring 2022 for districts not using MAP Growth.
  - With the end of the through-year assessment program, NDE has returned to MAP Growth as the data source for the assessment plan report on student performance on a national normed reference test.
  - The percentage of students at the 50th percentile or higher are included in this report on pages 6 and 7. (Following the release of embargoed data Nov. 25, 2026.)
    - Students that perform at the 50th percentile perform the same or better than 50% of students that take the test nationally.

- Pages 3 and 4 cover two items:
  - NDE protects the confidentiality of student information.
  - NDE assures inclusion of all students in statewide summative assessments, including students with disabilities and English learners. Nebraska schools have high participation rates, easily meeting the 95% federal requirement with many schools at 100%.

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- At the bottom of page 6 is a link to the Statewide Summative Assessment Technical Reports—including those for General assessments, Alternate assessments, and standard college admission tests (such as the ACT)—containing extensive documentation. These reports span hundreds of pages and cover topics such as item validity, scoring reliability, universal design principles, test administration procedures, test security measures, and numerous other technical aspects essential to large-scale assessment systems.
- Pages six and seven include tables showing how Nebraska students perform on norm referenced assessments compared to national norms. (Following the release of embargoed data Nov. 25, 2026.)

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Nebraska Department of Education Summative Assessment Administration and Reporting Schedule 2026-2027				
Name of Summative Assessment	**Grades Tested**	**Administration Dates**	**Performance Levels Reported**	**Released on Nebraska Education Profile**
English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21)	Kindergarten-12	January 25 - March 12, 2027	Proficient Progressing Emerging	Fall 2027
NSCAS General English Language Arts and Mathematics	3-8	March 29 - May 7, 2027	Advanced On Track Developing	Fall 2027
NSCAS General Science	5 and 8	March 29 - May 7, 2027	Advanced On Track Developing	Fall 2027
NSCAS Alternate English Language Arts and Mathematics	3-8 and 11 (third- year cohort)	March 29 - May 7, 2027	Advanced OnTrack Developing	Fall 2027
NSCAS Alternate Science	5, 8, and 11 (third year cohort)	March 29- May 7, 2027	Advanced On Track Developing	Fall 2027
ACT English Language Arts Mathematics Science	11 (third-year cohort)	March 12 - April 30, 2027 Dependent on Mode (paper/pencil, on-line)	ACT Benchmark On Track Developing	Fall 2027
NAEP (aka Nation's Report Card)-A standards based assessment that measures & compares samples of students across the United States.	Grades 4 & 8 (every two years); Grade 12 (every four years)	Jan-March 2028	NAEP Basic, Proficient, and Advanced (including numeric scale scores)	* NAEP represents a sample. The Nation's Report Card Fall 2027

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- **Nebraska Department of Education provides measures to protect confidentiality of student information.**

  NDE shall utilize various procedures and security measures to ensure the confidentiality of student records collected and maintained by the agency. These procedures shall include assignment of a unique identifier to each student, a system of restricted access to data, and statistical cutoff procedures.

  - o A unique student identification number (State Student ID) is assigned to each Nebraska student. The State Student ID is computer-generated and contains no embedded meaning. After being checked for duplicates, it becomes permanently assigned.
  - o Security protocols shall be designed and implemented by NDE. They shall limit who may have access to the data and for what purposes.
  - o NDE has adopted masking rules to ensure that confidentiality is maintained in all public reporting of personally identifiable student information from educational records.
  - o All NDE personnel collecting or using personally identifiable student information shall be provided instruction regarding procedures adopted in accordance with this policy.
  - o NDE shall maintain a current listing of agency personnel who have access to personally identifiable student information through authentication and internal links.

- **The Nebraska Department of Education provides measures to assure inclusion of students with disabilities, students who are English Learners, and students entering school for the first time.**

  - o Students with Disabilities
    - ▪ All students with disabilities are expected to participate in the statewide summative assessments. No student, including students with disabilities, may be excluded from the state assessment and accountability system. All students are required to have access to grade-level content, instruction, and assessment.
    - ▪ Students with disabilities may be included in state assessment and accountability in the following ways:
      - ➢ Students may be tested on the statewide tests without accommodations.
      - ➢ Students may be tested on the statewide tests with accommodations specified in the student's IEP. Accommodations appropriate for the statewide tests is found in the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment

System Accessibility Manual.

- ➢ Students may be tested on alternate statewide summative assessment measures.

o Students Learning the English Language

- ▪ Both state and federal laws require the inclusion of all students in the statewide summative assessments; therefore, English Learner students must be tested on statewide summative assessments.
  - ➢ ESEA requirements allow appropriate testing accommodation for all EL students.
  - ➢ In determining appropriate accommodations for students, districts should use the *Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Accessibility Manual*.

o Recently Arrived Limited English Proficient Students

- ▪ A Recently Arrived Limited English Proficient Student is defined by the U.S. Department of Education as a student with limited English proficiency who has attended schools in the United States for less than twelve months.
- ▪ Under NCLB, students who had a U.S. school for less than 12 months could be granted a waiver from the NSCAS-ELA assessment. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), all ELs in Nebraska must participate in all statewide summative assessments.
- ▪ For the purpose of state accountability:
  - ➢ In Year 1: For the first year of enrollment, exclude the results on the English language arts, mathematics, and science assessments in the state accountability system.
  - ➢ In Year 2: Assess the student but include only a growth measure in the state accountability system.
  - ➢ In Year 3: Assess the student and include proficiency (achievement scores) in the state accountability system.

§1111(b)(3)(A)(ii)

• The department shall conduct studies to verify the technical quality of assessment instruments.

All Technical Reports of summative statewide assessment are available on the Nebraska Department of Education website.
https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/technical-reports/

• The department shall conduct studies to demonstrate the comparability of assessment instrument results.

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- NSCAS General English Language Arts and Mathematics (Connected test model) provide a RIT score for each student. The RIT is reflective of the score a student would have likely received if they had taken NWEA's MAP Growth Reading or Mathematics assessments. RIT scores will also be generated when students take a MAP Growth assessment in reading, mathematics, and general science. For 2027, the RIT score may come from either the NSCAS Connected test model or MAP Growth.

Comparison of National Assessment Instruments (NAI) and Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) MAP Growth – ELA 2026

Percentile is a comparison score between a particular score and the scores of the rest of the group. It shows the percentage of scores that a particular score surpassed. For example, a score at the 50th percentile means that the score is above 50% of the scores. The table below indicates the percentage of Nebraska students that scored **at or above the 50th percentile** when compared to national norms for the same time period.

Nebraska Student Achievement as Determined by National Norms on MAP Growth Reading		
	MAP Growth English Language Arts- RIT	
GRADE	**Percentage of Students at or above the 50th Percentile**	**Number of Tests**
3	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**
4	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**
5	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**
6	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**
7	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**
8	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**

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Comparison of National Assessment Instruments (NAI) and Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) MAP Growth – Mathematics 2026

Percentile is a comparison score between a particular score and the scores of the rest of the group. It shows the percentage of scores that a particular score surpassed. For example, a score at the 50th percentile means that the score is above 50% of the scores. The table below indicates the percentage of Nebraska students that scored **at or above the 50th percentile** when compared to national norms for the same time period.

Nebraska Student Achievement as Determined by National Norms on MAP Growth Mathematics		
	MAP Growth Mathematics- RIT	
GRADE	**Percentage of Students at or above the 50th Percentile**	**Number of Tests**
3	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**
4	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**
5	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**
6	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**
7	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**
8	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**	**EMBARGOED until 11/25/2026**