

# **NSCAS** NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

This school year, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) begins the development and implementation of Nebraska's Student-Centered Assessment System or NSCAS. NSCAS is a statewide assessment system that embodies Nebraska's holistic view of students.

It aims to provide educators with multiple types of assessment for instructional purposes throughout the year. The system and its supports provide valuable information to schools and districts as they prepare students for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life.

## Four Core Components of NSCAS:



### Formative Assessment

- What:** Checks for student understanding during instruction
- When:** As needed, daily in the classroom throughout the year
- Why:** To help teachers address student learning needs in-the-moment



### Interim Assessment

- What:** Assessments administered at different intervals between instruction
- When:** Given periodically (typically fall/winter/spring)
- Why:** To help educators better understand student learning needs and determine growth toward learning goals



### Summative Assessment

#### NSCAS Summative – Grades 3 – 8

- What:** A new statewide computer-adaptive assessment for English language arts and math for grades 3 – 8 and science for grades 5 and 8
- When:** Annually in the spring
- Why:** Measure student performance against Nebraska's content area standards, identify student learning needs, maximize classroom time

#### NSCAS ACT – Grade 11

- What:** A college entrance exam that is the summative assessment at the high school level
- When:** Administered for free annually in the spring for all high school juniors
- Why:** Meeting expectations on the ACT indicates college readiness in Nebraska students



### Professional Learning

- What:** Districts, schools, and NDE provide a variety of professional learning opportunities to teachers to support them in using assessment results to inform instruction
- When:** According to each district's schedule
- Why:** To support educators – and by extension parents – in their use of assessment data to accelerate student learning at all levels

