



**NSCAS** NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED  
ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

State Board Update

March 1, 2018

## Introduction

Nebraska Student-Centered  
Assessment System (NSCAS)

- Embodies Nebraska's holistic view of students
- Gives schools and districts valuable information about student learning
- Helps teachers prepare students for a lifetime of success

## About NSCAS

Putting students at the center of teaching and learning

- Provides multiple types of assessments throughout the year
- Reveals in-depth information about what each student knows and is ready to learn
- Empowers educators with timely and actionable insights that accelerate learning





# Assessment Types

## Balanced Assessment

- Consists of tools to assess and inform learning
- Typically includes at least three levels of assessment measures (e.g. summative, interim, and formative)
- Includes supports to use assessment information effectively
- Provides the appropriate information needed by different levels of the educational system

## Balanced Assessment

- *“Most educators agree that the balance must reflect the absolute importance of the support for learning over the simple measurement for accountability.” -- Dr. Brian Gong (2010)*

# About NSCAS

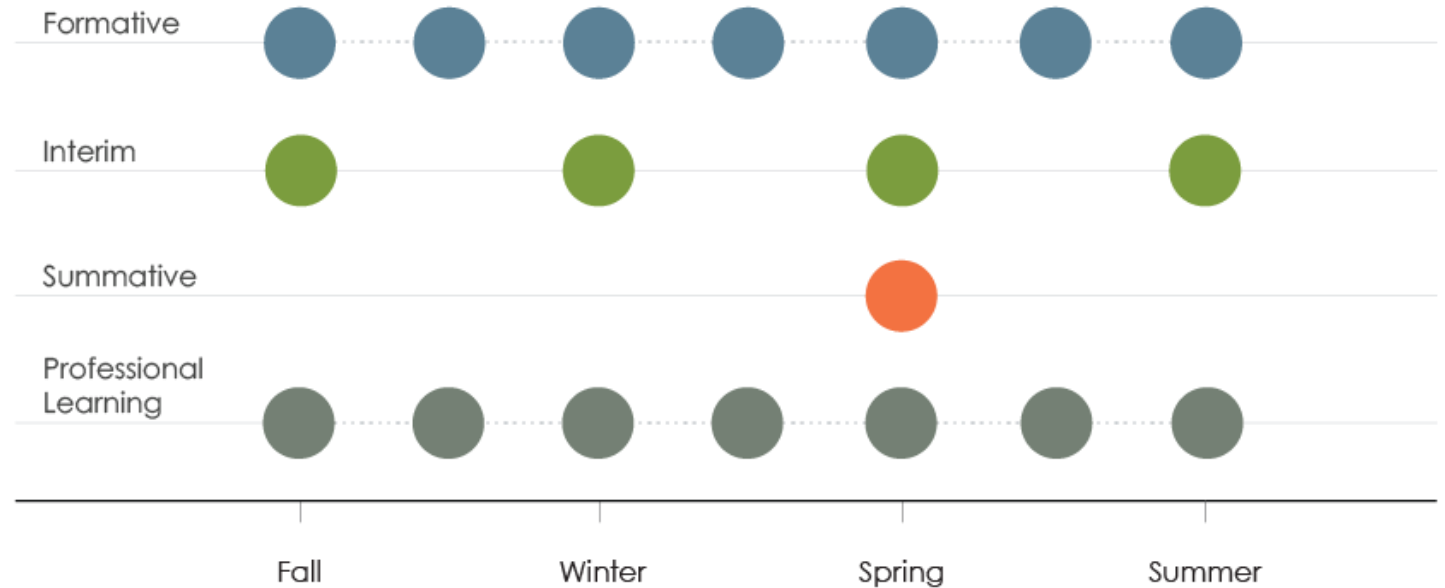
Multiple measures and uses

**Formative assessment** to inform instructional approaches

**Interim assessment** to measure academic growth and identify learning needs

**Summative assessment** to measure student achievement

**Professional learning** to support effective use of data for student learning



# Assessment Types

## Formative Assessment

New resources and tools

- Districts/schools already provide formative assessment resources
- NDE is partnering with NWEA to supplement these resources with:
  - Onsite formative assessment workshops
  - Extensive online resources for formative practice
  - TestWiz and the Navigate Item Bank



# Assessment Types

## Interim Assessment



- NDE has made Measures of Academic Progress (i.e. MAP Growth) available to NE districts at no cost
- MAP Growth is already used in 95% of NE districts to:
  - Identify student learning needs and set goals with students
  - Measure academic growth within and across school years
  - Track growth toward proficiency and predict summative performance

## Assessment Types

### Summative Assessment

NSCAS Summative

NSCAS ACT

**NSCAS Summative:** Replaces NeSA for grades 3–8

- Deeper and more precise insight into grade-level performance
- Maximizes classroom time and allows timely intervention
- Provides a stable and secure testing experience
- Enables students of all abilities to participate

**NSCAS ACT-** Summative assessment for 11<sup>th</sup> graders

# Assessment Types

## NSCAS ACT

Summative assessment for  
11<sup>th</sup> grade

- Summative assessment in English language arts, math, and science
- Administered in the spring to 11<sup>th</sup> graders
- Provides more postsecondary opportunities for students in Nebraska
- Brings increased rigor, relevance, and expectations for students

A photograph of two students in a classroom setting. In the foreground, a young man with dark skin and short black hair is focused on writing in a notebook with a blue pen. He is wearing a light blue denim shirt. Behind him, a young woman with long blonde hair is looking at his work with a smile, her hand resting on her chin. She is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is softly blurred, showing a bright window and a blue chair.

# NSCAS Summative

## NSCAS Summative

Built from Nebraska  
Standards with help from  
Nebraska Educators

- Nebraska educators define achievement levels per Nebraska content standards
- Content specialist review ensures proper measurement and prevents bias
- Independent alignment study for skills and standards measurement



## NSCAS Summative

Deeper insight into  
grade-level performance

- Adapts dynamically based on each student's ability
- Includes engaging question formats
- Challenges top performers
- Designed to not overwhelm students whose skills are below grade level

## NSCAS Summative

Maximizes classroom time +  
enables timely intervention

- Adjusts to students' abilities, measuring more in less time
- Reduces test time while producing more accurate results
- Starting in 2019, results available shortly after close of testing window

## NSCAS Summative

Stable and secure testing  
experience reduces stress

nwea®

map®  
GROWTH™

- Operates on the NWEA Comprehensive Assessment Platform
  - Trusted platform (MAP Growth operates on same platform)
  - Supports 40 million student test events each year
- Practice assessments ensure student comfort

# NSCAS Summative

Students of all abilities  
can participate

- Universal tools for all students
- Accessibility supports—online and on paper
- NSCAS Alternate Assessment (NSCAS AA) available for significant cognitive disabilities

# NSCAS Summative

## 2017- 2018 Timeline and Summary

NSCAS Summative Assessment	Grade Level	Testing Dates
NSCAS (General)		March 19 – April 27, 2018
NSCAS – English Language Arts	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	
NSCAS – Mathematics	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	
NSCAS – Science	5 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	
NSCAS Alternate (AA)		March 19 – April 27, 2018
NSCAS AA – English Language Arts	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup>	
NSCAS AA – Mathematics	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup>	
NSCAS AA – Science	5 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup>	
NSCAS ACT	11 <sup>th</sup>	April 3, 2018
ELPA 21	K -12 <sup>th</sup> (ELs)	February 5 – March 16, 2018



# NSCAS Summative

Contracts

NSCAS Summative	Vendor	Grade Level
NSCAS (General)	Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>
NSCAS Alternate (AA)	Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup>
ACT	ACT	11 <sup>th</sup>

# NSCAS Summative

Contracts: Proposed Schedule

Date	Item Type
March 2018	Update Item: Teaching & Learning Domain
April 2018	Discussion Item: Teaching & Learning Domain Work Session
May 2018	Action Item: Teaching & Learning Domain Work Session Meeting



# Professional Learning & Messaging

# Professional Learning

Workshops and online resources to help inform instruction

Workshops led by Nebraska-certified facilitators

- Assessment literacy
- Formative instructional practice
- Applying MAP Growth data

Year-round access to online professional learning resources

## Messaging

Resources to help provide  
consistent messaging

NSCAS Anchor Statements & Key Messages

NSCAS Internal Q & A

NSCAS Policy Brief

NSCAS District Tip Sheets

NSCAS District PowerPoint for Educators

NSCAS District PowerPoint for Parents



**Thank you!**