



Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner

# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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11/5/18

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Recently you should have received your student's Individual Student Report (ISR). The results are from the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science summative assessments that were administered in spring 2018. The NSCAS, pronounced "en-skass," is a new statewide assessment system that embodies Nebraska's holistic view of students and helps them prepare for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life. The results provide educators and decision makers at all levels with the insights they need to support instruction of College and Career Ready (CCR) standards and student learning.

A variety of factors influence student achievement, and no single test is able to measure all of those factors. NSCAS scores are used, however, to help identify areas of academic strength as well as areas that students, schools, and the district can improve. These results provide one piece of evidence about your student's academic progress. Your student's teachers, school, and district has additional evidence that can help provide you with a more complete picture of your student's progress.

### **Nebraska Adopts More Rigorous Standards**

Spring of 2017, the English Language Arts portion of the statewide assessment transitioned from Legacy standards to the more rigorous CCR standards. The Mathematics assessment made this transition during the spring of 2018. Science will make the transition to CCR standards in the spring of 2021.

At the onset, a test that measures more rigorous standards typically results in fewer students being proficient. Lower proficiency rates have happened in other states where tests have transitioned to more rigorous standards. As schools and districts adjust curriculum and instruction it is common for proficiency rates to improve.

For more information an [ISR Interpretive Guide for Parents](#) is available online to aid in understanding test results. This guide provides a definition of each achievement level. Visit <https://community.nwea.org/community/nebraska> and look for the "Parents/Students" tab.

If you have additional questions, we encourage you to reach out to your student's teachers and school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy Heneger".

Jeremy Heneger (Nov 5, 2018)

Jeremy Heneger

Director of Statewide Assessment

Nebraska Department of Education