TIP SHEET FOR DISTRICTS

**Communicating about the NSCAS General Summative Assessment (2018-2019)**

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| **Sample newsletter article**  **or  blog post**  **(Send/post in winter term)** | **Preparing for the NSCAS General Summative assessment** This school year, the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) Summative assessment testing window will take place from March 18 – May 3, 2019.  The NSCAS General Summative is a computer-adaptive culminating assessment for English language arts and math (grades 3 – 8) and science (grades 5 and 8).  It measures student performance against Nebraska’s content area standards, showing how learning compares to grade-level expectations.  Now is a good time for parents and students to talk with teachers about scores on interim assessments like MAP Growth. Winter term MAP Growth reports will include predictive information regarding student performance on the NSCAS General Summative. Teachers and parents can use information in the report to identify and address student learning needs.  Learn more about Interim Assessments at: https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/interim-and-formative-assessments/  [Learn more](https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/) about the NSCAS General Summative and other parts of NSCAS at:  https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/  At the high school level, the NSCAS ACT college entrance exam, provided to all juniors, continues to serve as the summative assessment in English language arts, math, and science. NSCAS ACT dates can be found at: https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/act/ |
| **Sample newsletter article**  **or**  **blog or Facebook post**  **(Send/post as the testing window approaches)** | **NSCAS General Summative testing window opens soon!**  The NSCAS General Summative testing window for grades 3–8 is coming up! Testing dates are March 18–May 3, 2019 and make-up week is April 29–May 3, 2019. Don’t forget that it’s helpful for students to get a good night’s rest, eat breakfast on the day of the assessment, and stay positive!  The NSCAS General Summative is a computer-based adaptive assessment built on Nebraska’s College and Career Ready standards. It adapts dynamically based on each student’s ability, challenging top performers without overwhelming students whose skills are below grade level.  Learn more about the NSCAS General Summative at: https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-general-summative-assessment/ |
| **Sample Tweet #1 (winter)** | It’s a good time to talk with your child’s teacher about winter MAP Growth results, which show what your child knows and is ready to learn next, ahead of the #NSCAS General Summative assessment. [@NDE\_GOV](https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/) https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/interim-and-formative-assessments/ |
| **Sample Tweet #2 (spring)** | The #NSCAS General Summative assessment testing window for grades 3 – 8 is coming up (March 18 – May 3, 2019). Prepare your child(ren) with a good night’s rest and a healthy breakfast. [@NDE\_GOV](https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/) https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/ |

**Summative Assessment Key Messages**

**The NSCAS General Summative assessment:**

* Is built from with Nebraska’s College and Career Ready standards with help from Nebraska educators.
* Yields deeper and more precise insights into students’ grade-level performance.
* Maximizes classroom time and supports student learning.
* Provides a stable and secure testing experience, reducing stress for students and educators.
* Creates opportunities for students of all abilities to participate via accommodations and alternate assessments.

**The NSCAS Alternate Summative assessment:**

* Aligns to Nebraska’s College and Career Ready Standards with Extended Indicators.
* Provides meaningful access to grade-level content for students characterized by significant cognitive disabilities.
* Maximizes potential for direct student interaction with the alternate assessment via the new online administration procedure, which also reduces administration effort and leads to faster delivery of results.

**The NSCAS ACT college entrance exam:**

* Is the summative assessment in English language arts, math, and science at the high school level and is administered in the spring to all students in their third year of high school.\*
* Provides more postsecondary opportunities for students in Nebraska.
* Brings increased rigor, relevance, and expectations for students.

\* *An alternate exam will be available for the one percent of students who qualify for having significant cognitive disabilities.*