

# NSCAS Professional Learning Offerings 2018–19

Professional learning offerings for the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) are focused on the effective integration of data from various assessments to guide instructional decision-making at the classroom, school, and district level.

This document contains descriptions of the NSCAS professional learning series offered throughout the 2018-19 school year in partnership with NWEA®.

Unless otherwise noted, Nebraska-certified facilitators deliver onsite sessions and identify workshop dates and times based on district needs and availability.

## Assessment Literacy Series

When educators are assessment literate, they understand the various types and purposes of assessment, interpret and meaningfully discuss assessment data, and apply assessment information to inform instructional decisions. This series supports educators in gaining the knowledge and skills required for effective use of assessment practices, tools, and results to support learning.

- **Assessment Program Alignment:** Understand the interrelationships among assessment, curriculum, instruction, and student learning.
- **Application of Achievement Level Descriptors:** Identify skills and processes described in Nebraska's standards to drive instructional strategies that will advance student proficiency and amplify rigor and depth of learning.

## Formative Practices Series

Formative practices are the formal and informal processes and tools used during instruction by educators and students to gather evidence of learning and inform decisions. In this series, educators start with an introduction to formative practice and hone their practice in subsequent sessions.

1. **Building Your Formative Assessment Practice:** Develop foundational skills and understanding of formative assessment practices within a balanced assessment system.
2. **Developing Learning Targets:** Explore strategies for developing clear targets for learners and for constructing an effective roadmap for the learning journey through well-aligned activities, practices, and milestones.
3. **Questioning for Learning:** Cultivate questioning skills for leading all learners to success. Discover and practice strategies that will increase the value of classroom discussions and encourage timely instructional adjustments based on student responses.
4. **Student-Directed Learning:** Discover strategies to engage students as owners of their learning and resources for peers. Collaborate to develop plans that facilitate student ownership of learning goals and processes that lead to success.

## Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) Series

This three-part workshop series focuses on protocols for assessing students' written analyses of text and will be delivered by NWEA Professional Learning Consultants at the following regional locations: Scottsbluff (Harms Advanced Technology Center), Kearney (ESU #10), Wakefield (ESU #1), Lincoln (The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker), and La Vista (ESU #3). This sequential series is for both Nebraska-certified facilitators and eighth-grade teachers (up to 60 participants per session).

1. **The What and the Why of TDA (fall):** Define general reading comprehension and analysis, break down components of analytical writing, and identify the characteristics of a TDA prompt.
2. **Preparing Students for TDA (winter):** Learn how to identify characteristics of quality TDA responses and use a protocol to review and discuss student samples.
3. **Developing Responsive TDA Lesson Plans (spring):** Share experiences with TDA prompts and explore related instructional strategies and their impact on student performance.

## Interim Tools Series

Interim assessments are administered at intervals between instructional periods to help teachers better understand what a student knows and needs, determine progress toward learning goals, measure student growth, and identify patterns or trends in learning.

- **Applying Reports:** Learn how to access, interpret, and apply MAP® Growth™ data, including using it for goal setting with students and parents.
- **Informing Instruction:** Explore ways to use MAP Growth data to guide differentiation, including the design of data-based instructional plans and groupings.
- **Focusing on Growth:** Gain a deeper understanding of growth, how it is reported through MAP Growth, and how it can impact goal setting at all levels.
- **Data Conversations:** Acquire an understanding of how to develop a high-functioning culture of data use as an essential foundation of effective analysis and planning and explore the steps of effective data conversations.

## Summative Assessments Series

Summative assessments are culminating assessments that report the evaluation of learning, skills acquisition, and standards attainment. These assessments can be used for a single unit or to assess attainment of learning standards for the entire school year. This series includes onsite and online opportunities to learn how to interpret NSCAS General Summative reports, including how to use the NSCAS online reporting system, the Matrix, as an inquiry-based tool.

- **Interpreting NSCAS General Summative Assessment:** Explore and identify the basics of the NSCAS General Summative reports. Learn to describe the differences in the reporting scales for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, identify questions that the Matrix may help answer, and consider ways to use the report data to influence instruction and planning.

## TestWiz and the Navigate Item Bank Webinar Series

This is a new, four-part series of 60-minute webinar trainings designed to provide educators with the tools and resources needed for the successful implementation of TestWiz, a tool for building formative assessments. Webinars will be offered in the fall and will be recorded and made available for off-line viewing.

1. **Introduction and Administrative Tasks:** Set-up and manage user accounts and student rosters.
2. **Test Creation Using Navigate Item Bank:** Create an assessment.
3. **Test Administration:** Administer tests online or via paper/pencil.
4. **Reporting:** Understand reporting options and create a report.

