

# NSCAS General Summative Assessment for Grades 3–8

Nebraska's Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), pronounced "en-skass," is a statewide assessment system that supports Nebraska's holistic view of students. It includes formative, interim, and summative measures that together provide valuable information to educators and parents as they prepare students for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life.

The NSCAS General Summative, administered annually in the spring, is the component of NSCAS that assesses whether students have learned what they are expected to learn at their grade level. It is criterion-referenced, which means it measures student performance against a fixed set of criteria—Nebraska's content area standards for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grades 3–8) and for science (grades 5 and 8).

## Computer Adaptive Test

The NSCAS General Summative is a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT). It is taken on a computer or tablet, such as a Chromebook® or iPad®. This allows for more interactive questions and enables the test to adapt in response to each student's performance.

If a student answers a question correctly, the next question will be more difficult. If a student answers a question incorrectly, the next question will be easier.

This creates an efficient, personalized experience and provides students the best opportunity to show what they know.

Because the next question is based on how the student answered previously, the student cannot go back to an already-answered question or proceed to the next question until the current question is answered.

The NSCAS General Summative is designed to assess grade-level performance. While the test adapts to each student's performance, the questions it presents are aligned to the student's grade level.

For students with a documented need, the NSCAS General Summative is available on paper, including large print, Braille, and Spanish versions. When taken on paper, the NSCAS General Summative is not adaptive. In addition, for students with significant cognitive disabilities, an alternate assessment—the NSCAS Alternate Summative—is available.



## Scores and Achievement Levels

Students' performance on the NSCAS General Summative is reported as a scale score and achievement level.

The scale score is a representation of the total number of questions answered correctly and has been converted into a standard scale. Each content area is scaled separately, so the scale scores for one content area cannot be compared to another content area.

The achievement level is a description of the student's overall performance and is used to help make the scale scores meaningful. Scale score ranges, or cut scores, define different achievement levels for each grade and content area.

## Results

Individual Student Reports are available digitally for schools and districts, and printed copies are provided to parents and guardians. Data on school and district performance is shared with the general public via the [Nebraska Education Profile](#), a digital tool designed and developed by the Nebraska Department of Education, presenting Nebraska education data in multiple ways for multiple audiences.

### 2019 NSCAS GENERAL SUMMATIVE DATES

March 18–April 26, 2019

April 29–May 3—Make-up week

