

Communicating about the NSCAS Spring 2021 Assessment (2020-2021)

**Sample
newsletter
article****or****blog post****(Send/post
in winter
term)****Preparing for the NSCAS Spring 2021 assessment**

The NSCAS General Summative is a computer-adaptive end-of-year 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.

The spring 2021 NSCAS tests for ELA and mathematics will be transitional and are designed to help Nebraska prepare to implement an improved approach to assessing student grade-level performance in the 2021-22 school year. In addition, students in grades 5 and 8 will take a field test for Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for Science (NCCRS-S). The field test serves as a try-out of the new assessment questions.

This school year, the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) Spring 2021 testing window will take place from March 22 – April 30, 2021 (make-up week will be May 3 – May 7, 2021).

Given the unique circumstances created by the pandemic this school year and the transitional nature of the spring 2021 NSCAS tests, results will not be used for accountability classifications or designations.

To understand how students are doing academically, parents should talk with teachers about student engagement in learning and performance on assignments and assessments such as MAP Growth. Information in MAP Growth reports can be used 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 about the NSCAS Spring 2021 assessments 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 third-year cohort students, continues to serve as the summative assessment in English language arts, math, and science. NSCAS ACT resources and 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 Spring 2021 testing window opens soon!

The NSCAS Spring 2021 testing window for grades 3–8 is coming up! Testing dates are March 22 – April 30, 2021 and the make-up week is May 3 – May 7, 2021. 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!

Learn more about the NSCAS Spring 2021 assessments 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 assessment. @NDE_GOV <https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/interim-and-formative-assessments/>

Sample
Tweet #2
(spring)

The #NSCAS assessment testing window for grades 3 – 8 is coming up (March 22 – April 30, 2021). Prepare your child(ren) with a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast. @NDE_GOV <https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/>

Sample
Tweet #3
(spring)

Ahead of summer break, be sure to talk with teachers about how your child(ren) did on the spring MAP Growth test and get tips for helping them learn and grow throughout the summer. @NDE_GOV

Key Messages – Spring 2021 NSCAS Assessments

- The spring 2021 NSCAS tests administered for ELA and mathematics will help Nebraska prepare to implement an improved approach to assessing student grade-level performance in the 2021-22 school year.
- Students may also notice that the ELA and mathematics tests are shorter, reflecting the state's effort to preserve instructional time in recognition of the unique circumstances created by the pandemic this year.
- Spring 2021 also marks a transition for the science assessment, as students in grades 5 and 8 will take a field test for Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for Science (NCCRS-S). The field test will inform Nebraska's transition to the operational test that will be administered for science in 2022.
- An alternate assessment—the NSCAS Alternate—will be available for ELA, math, and science for students with significant cognitive disabilities.





- Individual Student Reports will be provided to parents and guardians for the Phase I Pilot. However, results will not be used for accountability classifications or designations.
- To understand student performance and help students continue their learning through the summer and beyond, families should talk with their children's teachers about their engagement in learning and their performance on assignments and assessments such as MAP Growth.
- The NSCAS ACT college entrance exam, provided to all third-year cohort high school students, continues to serve as the summative assessment at the high school level in English language arts, math, and science.

