

NSCAS Professional Learning Offerings 2020–21

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 levels.

This document contains descriptions of the NSCAS professional learning series offered throughout the 2020–21 school year in partnership between the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and NWEA®.

In recognition of the unique teaching and learning contexts of the 2020–21 school year, Nebraska Certified Facilitators are coordinating with district leadership to deliver virtual professional learning 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.

- **Kick-start Fall Planning:** Explore strategies to inform the instructional decisions needed in preparation for returning to school while addressing social-emotional learning needs to support resiliency in the full school community. Understand key updates in the 2020 norms and how a new norming study impacts educators' use of MAP® Growth™ data. Design and plan systemic resources and structures that optimize student learning.
- **Quality Classroom Assessment:** Practice portions of InTASC Standard 6, which includes understanding and using multiple methods of assessment. Learn about matching learning goals with a classroom assessment method and engaging in ethical practice of classroom assessment.
- **Applying Classroom Assessment Standards (advanced):** Explore standards issued by the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation (JCSEE) that guide sound classroom assessment.
- **Using ALDs to Ensure Classroom Rigor (advanced):** Consider how Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) from the NSCAS Summative represent instructional "pathways" to reach a desired goal (e.g., Proficient) based on students' current test performance.
- **Triangulating Data for Instructional Insights (intermediate):** Explore the development of focus questions to help guide efforts when triangulating data to inform decisions.
- **Student-Centered Assessment Literacy:** Consider how to leverage your learning environment to deepen engagement and explore strategies to enhance student ownership 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. **Clarifying Learning—Developing Learning Targets for Classroom Success:** Learn why students make the best progress when they have a clear understanding of what they need to learn. Explore strategies for developing clear targets for learners and constructing an effective road map for the learning journey through well-aligned activities, practices, and milestones.
2. **Eliciting Evidence—Engaging All Students:** Discover and practice strategies that will increase the value of your classroom discussions and let you make timely instructional adjustments based on student responses.
3. **Activating Learners—Peer and Self-Assessment:** Explore 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.
4. **Providing Feedback—Classroom Feedback Strategies and Tools:** Investigate tools that support quality feedback approaches and learn from classroom examples of success with feedback models while using strategies that enhance classroom learning culture.

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 and how it is reported through MAP Growth. Build a framework to better understand growth over time and how it can impact goal setting at all levels. Analyze longitudinal MAP Growth data more deeply using relevant tools and coaching protocols.

Writing with Evidence

This series focuses on understanding and developing best instructional practices to support evidence-based writing in ELA and science content areas. Participants will strengthen classroom practices that ensure students are on a trajectory to succeed with postsecondary writing challenges. This sequential series will be delivered virtually by NWEA Professional Learning Consultants for middle-level educators in teams of science and ELA teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators.

- **Writing with Evidence:** Examine the skills necessary for students to succeed in evidence-based writing (for in-person and virtual learning settings). Explore strategies for teaching writing that can boost these skills. Plan how to implement expanded or new ideas in your classroom.

Webinar Series

Two types of webinars will be available:

On-demand webinars are pre-recorded so individuals or groups can access them anytime for team learning. These recorded sessions last approximately 45 minutes and launched in August 2019. Each on-demand webinar will be released two weeks prior to the Q&A live webinar. The Q&A live sessions allow for questions, discussion, and answers with a subject matter expert.

Live webinars are approximately one hour in length and are delivered to a live audience. These webinars serve as an opportunity to engage in professional conversation about current topics and to let Certified Facilitators share their best practices. These sessions will be recorded.

- **Nebraska Certified Facilitator Live Webinar:** Hear the latest information regarding the NSCAS partnership and share professional learning practices from across Nebraska in this interactive webinar.
- **Early Literacy Webinar:** The NDE staff, along with NWEA consultants, will present a webinar addressing topics related to early literacy, including the NebraskaREADS Act, the MAP Growth K–2 assessment, and MAP® Reading Fluency™.
- **Research Studies:** The NWEA Research team, in collaboration with the NDE, will share current research affecting Nebraska educators and Certified Facilitators' work. Develop a general understanding of how NWEA Research engages with states to create linking studies and how NWEA norms studies provide reliable guidance for instructional decisions.

