



Schedule Guidance for the Winter NSCAS Growth Pilot Assessment

The Winter NSCAS Growth Pilot assessment window is **December 1 – January 28**. The following guidelines are intended to support districts and schools in scheduling the administration of the assessment.

The NSCAS Growth online assessment is untimed and designed to provide students with as much time as needed to complete each content area. In the winter of 2021, the English Language Arts (ELA) & Mathematics tests (Math) will be adaptive tests, which means students will see different items based on whether they answer the previous questions correctly or incorrectly.

Testing Times

The table below lists the number of test questions per content area and the recommended time needed for the majority of students for each content area. Recommended times were based on averages from the previous test administrations. Some students may require more time than others. When scheduling test sessions, these variances should be considered.

Grade Level	Content Area	Approximate number of test questions*	Recommended Scheduled Testing time
3 – 8	Mathematics	40	90 minutes
3 – 8	English Language Arts	40	90 minutes

*All students will be given the same number of test items.

Tests Session Recommendations

Due to the adaptive nature of the ELA and Math Winter Pilot assessments, students will be required to answer each test question before a new question will be presented. At any point during the test session, students can log out of the test, which will pause the students' assessment. Later or on another day, the student can resume testing. The student's test will begin where the student left the test. This functionality provides schools with flexibility in scheduling test sessions.

With the design of the NSCAS Winter Pilot, schools may opt to plan one test session for each test; however, as in years past, schools may schedule two (2) sessions for students to complete the test. This is considered a local decision.

When scheduling test sessions, please consider the following:

- The estimated test-taking time does not include test ticket distribution, launching the secure browsers, and student log-in.
- Districts have access to the testing times of all their students that took the NSCAS pilot. The time elapsed data is in the district data file (column K) and should be used to inform testing schedules. Note: there are more test items included in the winter pilot assessment. Districts should keep this in mind when developing testing schedules.
- Younger students will be more likely to need multiple test sessions.
- Individual students can select the log-out button to be paused at any time.
- After 15 minutes of inactivity, the student will receive an inactivity warning on their screen and then be automatically logged out of the test. The student can resume testing by re-logging into the test.



- Tests can be scheduled at any time during the school day but be cautious of starting late in the afternoon.
- Schools should prioritize student needs and not adult convenience when building a testing schedule. Proctors should not pace students. All schedules need to account for students that may need additional time to complete the test.
- Due to the adaptivity in the NSCAS English Language Arts Winter Pilot assessment, the number of passages each student encounters will vary from 3 to 5 passages.
- Proctors for the NSCAS Winter Pilot ELA can provide students a time warning to help avoid having students read half a passage and then having time run out. Districts may give students a ten-minute warning and/or a five-minute warning, such as: “Students, there are ten minutes left. Do not start another passage.” and/or “Students, there are five minutes left. Do not start a new passage.”
- There may be scheduled downtime for maintenance and product updates. These will be communicated to all partners (i.e., districts) in advance of the test window.
- Group breaks are no longer prohibited but should only be needed for lengthy sessions which are not recommended.
- Balancing test time and instruction is important. Most students should not need more than 90 minutes to complete one subject. Districts may stop a student at 2 hours unless educators feel there is an educationally valid reason to continue and one of the following is true:
 - The student is still actively engaged in testing
 - The student has a documented need for extended time
 - The student requests additional time