

Individual Student Report Interpretive Guide for Parents NSCAS Summative: English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science Spring 2018

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Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS)

This past spring, your child took the NSCAS Summative tests. The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), pronounced "EN-skass," is a statewide assessment. These tests measure student performance against Nebraska's content area standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for grades 3–8, and in Science for grades 5 and 8.

The NSCAS Summative test was taken on a computer or, if your child had a documented need, on paper. If your child took the test on a computer, the test was adaptive. This means that if your child answered a question correctly, the next question was more challenging; if your child answered incorrectly, the next question was easier. If you child took the test on paper, questions did not change based on how your child answered the previous question. Once your child completed the NSCAS Summative tests, the results were calculated, and a score was generated and reported in the form of an Individual Student Report (ISR).

This guide provides an example report and explains the data it contains to help you understand your child's report. If you have questions after reading this guide and looking at your child's ISR, please contact your child's teacher or school.

Achievement Levels

Students' performance on the NSCAS Summative assessment is reported as a scale score and achievement level. **Scale scores** for all grades range from 2220–2890 for ELA, 1000–1550 for Math, and from 0–200 for each grade in Science. Each grade will have a different range of scale scores. **Achievement levels** are used to help make the scale scores easy to understand. Achievement levels are written descriptions that let you know how well your child performed on each section of the test. Achievement levels are measured against the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards (CCR) for ELA and Mathematics, and the Nebraska Legacy Standards in Science. The different achievement levels are:

ELA and Mathematics:

- **Developing**: Developing learners do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student may need additional support for academic success at the next grade level.
- **On Track**: On Track learners demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.

• **CCR Benchmark**: CCR Benchmark learners demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.

Science:

- **Below the Standards:** Overall student performance in science reflects *unsatisfactory* performance on the standards and *insufficient* understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Below the Standards level *inconsistently* draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.
- **Meets the Standards:** Overall student performance in science reflects *satisfactory* performance on the standards and *sufficient* understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Meets the Standards level *generally* draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.
- Exceeds the Standards: Overall student performance in science reflects *high* academic performance on the standards and a *thorough* understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Exceeds the Standards level *consistently* draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.

Individual Student Report (ISR)

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) show a student's performance on the NSCAS ELA, Mathematics, and Science tests. Figure 1.2 and Figure 1.3 present sample reports for Page 1 and Page 2. Explanations for the different parts of the report are listed below.

1 Identification Information

Student identification information is provided at the top right corner of the report on both pages. This includes the document title, student name, student identification number, date of birth, grade, and the district and school in which the student is enrolled.

2 Report Introduction

This section has a description of the NSCAS. It also explains how achievement levels and scale scores are created and introduces the different components of the report. Scale scores are your child's test scores. Achievement levels are how well your child performed on each section of the test and are explained in more detail above. Each scale score is shown with a range that represents the accuracy of the score. If your child were tested again on the same test at the same time, we would expect his or her score to fall within this range as shown in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1. Example of Scale Score

English Language Arts (E ELA SCALE SCORE On Track learners demonstrate proficiency in th assessed Nebraska College and Career Ready St	expect his or her score to fall within this range.	
for academic success at the next grade level. Developing	On Track	CCR Benchmark
	2586	
	⊢	
2280	2531 2599	2860

Student Score Comparison

Your child's scale score and achievement level for each content area is provided, along with comparisons to district and state averages. The scale score range is also shown.

Note: Score ranges for each content area are scaled separately; therefore, the scale scores for one content area cannot be compared to another content area.

4 Scale Score by Content Area

The last section on Page 1 and all of Page 2 provides your child's current achievement level scores on the different reporting categories within each content area.

Figure 1.2. Sample Report—ISR, Page 1



INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT 2018 LAST NAME, FIRST NAME MI.

ID: 123456789 DOB: 09/19/08 Grade: 5 District: Lincoln Public Schools

School: Adams Elemenrary School **NSCAS Summative**

Content Area Standards

Career Ready Standards. Achievement levels are Developing. On Track, and College and Career Ready Benchmark (CCR Benchmark).

English Language Arts & Math (Grades 3-8) Based on the Nebraska College and

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What is NSCAS?

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) Summative assessments are developed specifically for Nebraska to provide educators, students, and guardians with an assessment of student progress on the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics and the Nebraska Legacy Standards in Science.

How are achievement levels determined?

Achievement levels are determined with Nebraska educators and approved by the Nebraska State Board of Education.

What is ++++ ?

The () represents your student's scale score. Scale scores allow valid comparisons of achievement across time and across students. The (I----I) represents the uncertainty with which your student's scale score is associated. No test score is expected to be the same over repeated administrations. The standard error of measurement gives a range of scale scores where your student's score might fall if he or she were given the test again.

For More Information:

The Interpretive Guide is available online to aid families, teachers, and administrators in understanding test results. Visit https://community.nwea.org/community/nebraska.

Science (Grades 5 & 8) Based on Nebraska Legacy Standards until 2020. Based on the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards starting in 2021. Achievement levels are Below the Standards, Meets the Standards, and Exceeds the Standards.

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Student Score Comparison	3				
CONTENT AREA	STUDENT	DISTRICT	STATE	SCORE RANGE	
English Language Arts	2586	2500	2300	2280-2860	
Mathematics	1290	1300	1200	1020-1510	
Science	100	150	100	0-200	

English Language Arts (ELA) **On Track: 2586** ELA SCALE SCORE

On Track learners demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.

Developing	On Track		CCR Benchmark
	2586		
	 ∳ 		
2280	2531 2599		2860
Reporting Categories	Developing	On Track	CCR Benchmark
Reading Vocabulary			2790
Reading Comprehension			2685
Writing Skills	2411		



INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT 2018 LAST NAME, FIRST NAME MI.

ID: 123456789 DOB: 09/19/08 Grade: 5 District: Sample District Name School: Sample Elementary School Name

Mathematics On Track: 1290

MATHEMATICS SCALE SCORE

On Track learners demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.

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Developing	On Track		CCR Benchmark
	1290		
		1	
1020	1236	1331	1510
Reporting Categories	Developing	On Track	CCR Benchmark
Number	1180		
Algebra		1308	
Geometry	1075		1
Data			1360

Science Meets the Standards: 100



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SCIENCE SCALE SCORE

Overall student performance in science reflects satisfactory performance on the standards and sufficient understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Meets the Standards level generally draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.

Below the Standards	Meets the Standards		Exceeds the Standards
	100		
	_ ∳ 		
0	85	135	200
Demographic	Below the Standards	Meets the Standards	Exceeds the Standards
Inquiry, Nature of Science & Tech	54		
		124	
Physical Science			
Life Sciences	22		
Earth/Space Sciences			144

Common Questions

Common Questions	
How do teachers, district administrators, and state administrators use the Summative test scores?	Teachers can use the scores to help them personalize learning and monitor the growth of individual students, ensuring that they are meeting state standards. Principals and administrators can use the scores to see the performance and progress of a grade level, school, or entire district.
l see no score for one of my child's tests, just three letters. What do they mean?	If your child did not take a test for any reason, a three-letter code called a "non- tested code" will appear in your child's report instead of a score. These include EMW (medical emergency), INV (student's test was invalid), NLE (student was not enrolled when the district tested), PAR (parent requested that the student not be tested), and SAE (student was absent during the test window).
How often will my child take NSCAS Summative tests?	The NSCAS Summative test is administered once a year in ELA and Mathematics for grades 3–8 and in Science for grades 5 and 8.
Is the NSCAS Summative a standardized test?	Yes, the NSCAS Summative is a standardized test. Standardized tests require all test takers to answer a selection of questions from a common bank of questions. Tests are scored in a "standard" or consistent manner, and results fulfill federal guidelines in education. Results also help educators identify student learning strengths and needs so they can tailor instruction to move student learning forward.
What types of questions are on NSCAS Summative tests?	The NSCAS Summative tests include multiple choice, drag-and-drop, and other types of questions. To see sample item types, please visit https://community.nwea.org/community/nebraska/practice-tests.
Where do I find my child's report if I have not already received it?	Districts will distribute ISRs to schools to go to the student's home. If you have not received your child's ISR, please contact your child's school.