

# THE NORTH CAROLINA TESTING PROGRAM 2020–21

## ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

### **Beginning-of-Grade 3 (BOG3) Reading Test**

- The BOG3 Reading Test is aligned to the North Carolina *Standard Course of Study* (NCSCoS) for grade 3 English Language Arts.
- The purpose of the test is to establish a baseline measure of beginning third-grade students' reading skills.
- Students read authentic selections and then answer questions related to the selections.
- Knowledge of vocabulary is assessed indirectly through application and understanding of terms within the context of the selections and questions.
- All test questions are multiple-choice.
- For the 2020–21 school year, the BOG3 Test must be administered by the 20th day of the school year. Days used for remote learning should not be factored into the twenty-day testing window.

### **End-of-Grade (EOG) Tests**

#### Reading

- The EOG Reading Tests are aligned to the NCSCoS for English Language Arts.
- Students read authentic selections and then answer questions related to the selections.
- Knowledge of vocabulary is assessed indirectly through application and understanding of terms within the context of the selections and questions.
- All test questions are multiple-choice.
- The EOG testing window is the last ten days of the school year.

#### Mathematics

- The EOG Mathematics Tests are aligned to the NCSCoS for mathematics.
- The EOG Mathematics Tests consist of two parts: calculator inactive and calculator active. Students are not allowed to use calculators during the calculator inactive part of the test; students are allowed to use calculators during the calculator active part of the test.
- The EOG Mathematics Tests at grades 5 and 8 are required to be administered online. Exceptions to this rule are for approved technology hardship requests or for students with disabilities who have documented accommodations that dictate a paper/pencil test format is necessary for accessibility.
- The tests at grades 3 and 4 contain multiple-choice questions only.
- The online tests at grades 5–8 contain multiple-choice and numeric entry questions.
- The paper/pencil tests at grades 5–8 contain multiple-choice and gridded-response questions.
- The EOG testing window is the last ten days of the school year.

#### Science

- The EOG Science Tests at grades 5 and 8 are aligned to the North Carolina *Essential Standards* for Science.
- The EOG Science Tests are required to be administered online. Exceptions to this rule are for approved technology hardship requests or for students with disabilities who have documented accommodations that dictate a paper/pencil test format is necessary for accessibility.
- The online tests contain multiple-choice and technology-enhanced questions.
- The paper/pencil tests contain multiple-choice questions only.
- The EOG testing window is the last ten instructional days of the school year.

**End-of-Course (EOC) Tests**

- The EOC tests are available for Biology, English II, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3. Students enrolled for credit in courses where EOC tests are required must take the appropriate EOC assessment at the completion of the course.
- The EOC tests are aligned to the NCSCoS for English Language Arts and Mathematics and the North Carolina *Essential Standards* for Science.
- All EOC tests are required to be administered online. Exceptions to this rule are for approved technology hardship requests or for students with disabilities who have documented accommodations that dictate a paper/pencil test format is necessary for accessibility.
- The online and paper/pencil English II tests contain multiple-choice and constructed-response questions.
- The online and paper/pencil NC Math 1 assessment consists of two parts: calculator inactive and calculator active. Students may use a calculator only for the calculator active part of the test.
- The online NC Math 1 and NC Math 3 tests contain multiple-choice questions, numeric entry questions, and technology-enhanced questions. The paper/pencil test consists of multiple-choice and gridded response questions.
- The NC Math 3 test contains only calculator active questions.
- The online Biology test questions are multiple-choice and technology-enhanced; the paper/pencil test questions are all multiple-choice.
- Per SBE policy TEST-003, schools are to use results from all EOC tests as at least twenty (20) percent of the student's final grade for each respective course.

**PreACT**

- The PreACT is administered to all tenth-graders in the fall.
- The PreACT simulates the ACT testing experience within a shorter test on all four ACT test subjects: English, Reading, Math and Science.
- The multiple choice test predicts future success on the ACT test and provides both current achievement and projected future ACT test scores on the 1-36 ACT score scale.
- The PreACT is a diagnostic assessment designed to help parents and educators identify areas where students may need additional academic support or remediation. The PreACT can also help to initiate strategic conversations between parents and schools regarding dual enrollment decisions, identifying curriculum gaps, implementing interventions on behalf of students, and choosing Advanced Placement classes.

**ACT**

- Students at grade 11 take the ACT in the spring.
- The ACT is a curriculum- and standards-based assessment that evaluates college and career readiness in English, Mathematics, Reading and Science.
- The ACT is used for college admissions, placement and scholarships. It is accepted by all colleges and universities in the United States.
- Each section of the ACT test is multiple choice and scored on a 1-36 point scale. The composite score is the average of the four subject test sections.
- The ACT provides a path to increase student access to postsecondary and workforce opportunities.
- Additional reporting and insights on STEM, Career Readiness, and Understanding Complex Texts are provided.

## **ACT WorkKeys**

- Students who are identified as Career and Technical Education (CTE) concentrators are required to complete the ACT WorkKeys assessments.
- The three ACT WorkKeys assessments, which form the basis of the *National Career Readiness Certificate* (NCRC), include Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents.
- The Applied Math test measures critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, and problem-solving techniques for situations that occur in today's workplace.
- The Graphic Literacy test measures the skills needed to locate, synthesize, and use information from workplace graphics. Workplace graphics come in a variety of formats, but all communicate a level of information. From charts to graphs and diagrams to floor plans, identifying what information is being presented and understanding how to use it are critical to success.
- The Workplace Documents test measures the skills people use when they read real workplace documents and use that information to make job-related decisions and solve problems. The documents include messages, emails, letters, directions, signs, notices, bulletins, policies, websites, contracts and regulations.
- Students who achieve qualifying scores on the Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents assessments earn a *National Career Readiness Certificate*. The nationally recognized certificate provides employers with information on the skill levels of potential employees and aids with employment, promotion and training decisions.

## **ALTERNATE ASSESSMENTS**

### **NCEXTEND1**

- The NCEXTEND1 is designed for students with disabilities who
  - have a significant cognitive disability;
  - have a current Individualized Education Program (IEP);
  - are enrolled in grades 3–8, 10, or 11 according to PowerSchool; and
  - are instructed in the North Carolina Extended Content Standards in all assessed content areas.
- The assessment process requires students to complete grade-level performance tasks.
- Assessment questions align with the North Carolina Extended Content Standards for Reading and Mathematics, and the North Carolina Extended Essential Standards for Science.
- The assessments are administered during designated state testing windows.
- The NCEXTEND1 measures student performance in the following subject areas:
  - Reading at grades 3–8, 10, and 11;
  - Mathematics at grades 3–8, 10, and 11; and
  - Science at grades 5, 8, 10, and 11.

### **College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment at Grade 10**

- The CCRAA at grade 10 is designed as an alternate assessment for participation in the PreACT.
- The CCRAA at grade 10 is appropriate for students with disabilities enrolled in tenth grade who have an IEP and
  - exhibit severe and pervasive delays in all areas of conceptual, linguistic, and academic development as well as in adaptive behaviors, including communication, daily living skills, and self-care;
  - are following a course of study that, upon completing high school, may not lead to admission into a college-level course of study resulting in a college degree (i.e., the Occupational Course of Study);
  - are not receiving instruction in the North Carolina Extended Content Standards; and
  - have a written parental request for an alternate assessment or have the CCRAA indicated as the required assessment in their IEP.
- The CCRAA at grade 10 contains multiple-choice questions.
- The CCRAA at grade 10 is available in online and paper/pencil formats.
- The administration of the CCRAA 10 occurs simultaneously with the PreACT administration in the fall.

## **College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment at Grade 11**

- The CCRAA at grade 11 is designed as an alternate assessment for participation in the ACT.
- The CCRAA at grade 11 is appropriate for students enrolled in eleventh grade who have an IEP and
  - exhibit severe and pervasive delays in all areas of conceptual, linguistic, and academic development as well as in adaptive behaviors, including communication, daily living skills, and self-care;
  - are following a course of study that, upon completing high school, may not lead to admission into a college-level course of study resulting in a college degree (i.e., the Occupational Course of Study);
  - are not receiving instruction in the North Carolina Extended Content Standards
  - have a written parental request for an alternate assessment have the CCRAA indicated as the required assessment in their IEP.
- The CCRAA at grade 11 contains multiple-choice questions.
- The CCRAA at grade 11 is available in online and paper/pencil formats.
- The CCRAA at grade 11 is administered during the spring ACT accommodations testing window.

## **Alternate ACCESS for ELLs®**

- The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an assessment of English language proficiency for students in grades 1–12 who are classified as English Learners (ELs) and have significant cognitive disabilities that prevent their meaningful participation in the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.
- The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs has four assessment domains: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.
- The Listening and Reading sections consist of multiple-choice questions.
- The Writing and Speaking sections prompt the students for a constructed response.
- All sections are adaptive, meaning that the test questions are presented until the student reaches his/her performance “ceiling.”
- Other unique features of the test include simplified language, repetition of questions, increased graphic support, larger testing materials, and graphics.

## **STATE-IDENTIFIED LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTING**

### **WIDA™ Screener and WIDA ACCESS Placement Test™ (W-APT™)**

- Language-minority students are identified through a home-language survey (HLS) process.
- Eligibility for being assessed on the WIDA Screener at grades 1–12 or the W-APT at kindergarten is based on results of the HLS process.
- The WIDA Screener or W-APT is administered to all eligible, initially enrolled, language-minority students (in kindergarten through grade 12) within thirty (30) calendar days.
- All EL students must be annually assessed to determine progress and level of English language proficiency.
- The WIDA Screener and W-APT are screeners that determine if a student is identified as EL. If a student is identified as an EL, the WIDA Screener and W-APT provide guidance concerning which tier (level) of English language proficiency test should be administered to the student. The score on the WIDA Screener and W-APT also determines eligibility for state EL testing accommodations.
- The annual English language proficiency test, Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs), is the state-designated EL proficiency test.
- The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an assessment of English language proficiency for students in grades 1–12 who are identified as language minority students and have significant cognitive disabilities that prevent their meaningful participation in the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.
- The WIDA Screener, W-APT, ACCESS for ELLs, and the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs consist of subtests that assess the student’s English speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills.
- All students identified as ELs must be administered the ACCESS for ELLs or its alternate assessment during the annual testing window.

- The WIDA Screener and ACCESS for ELLs are required to be administered online.
- The results from the annual administration of the ACCESS for ELLs are used to measure progress and proficiency of ELs in the English language.

### **NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRESS (NAEP)**

- North Carolina participates in NAEP, also known as the *Nation's Report Card*.
- NAEP is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas.
- Selected fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students participate in NAEP.
- State-level results are reported for grades 4 and 8 in Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing. This allows comparisons among states and the nation.
- Selected students at ages 9, 13 and 17 participate in NAEP Long-Term Trend (LTT) assessments that are administered every four years in mathematics and reading. Results are only reported at the national level. Measuring trends of student achievement or change over time requires the precise replication of past procedures. Therefore, the LTT instrument does not evolve based on changes in curricula or educational practices, unlike the main NAEP.
- Selected twelfth-grade students participate in NAEP. Results for grade 12 are only reported at the national level.
- NAEP has special studies and assessments that are established by the National Assessment Governing Board.