

OPPORTUNITY



OF A LIFETIME

NSCAS Update 2021-2022

The Statewide Assessment Office
Nebraska Department of Education
Jeremy Heneger Ed.D., Director of Statewide Assessment

Statewide Assessment Staff

- Director-Dr. Jeremy Heneger
- Assistant Director-Dr. Trudy Clark
- Assessment Program Coordinator-Maggie Sis
- Enhanced Assessment Grant Coordinator-Rhonda True
- NAEP Coordinator-Polly Bowhay
- Office Associate-Stacey Weber

[Linked to Statewide
Assessment Contact Page!](#)
Please note the new phone
numbers!

Statewide Assessment Staff

- Special Education Liaison to the Assessment Office-Sharon Heater
- ELPA21-Allyson Olson
- ACT Onsite Liaison-Iris Owens
- NWEA Professional Learning Lead-Aly Martinez Wilkinson
- NWEA Formative Assessment PL Lead-Dr. Dennison Bhola

Statewide Assessment Presentations

- NSCAS Update 2021-22
 - Overview of Program
- NSCAS Innovation
 - Introduction to NSCAS Growth
- NSCAS Growth Q&A
 - Follow up session for NSCAS Innovation-interactive bring your questions
- NSCAS ACT State Testing for Spring 2022
- Professional Learning Opportunities in 2021 and Formative Assessment Supports Network
 - Supports for Balanced Assessment Systems
- NSCAS Science: Building a Coherent System of CI&A

New DAC?!?

- District Assessment Contact needs to be updated by the superintendent
- [DAC Contact Form 2021-22](#)
- DAC serves as the main point of contact for each district

Please Update Any New Contacts

- New Superintendents, Principals or DACs
 - Include
 - Name, Email, Phone, School(s)
- New N-TACs (Nebraska-Technical Assessment Contact)
 - Include
 - Name, Email, Phone
- New ACT Test Coordinators
 - Include
 - Name, Email, Phone, School
- Send updates to

nde.stateassessment@nebraska.gov

New DAC Webinar

New DAC Statewide Assessment Overview

- Scheduled on August 11, 2021
- Intended for new DACs, but everyone is welcome to attend.
- Focuses on big picture general information (i.e. processes and resources).
- Scheduled from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and will be recorded for those unable to attend the live event.

Statewide Assessment Regional Workshop

• Three Part Virtual Workshop Series - Save the Dates

- NSCAS Growth Oct. 13, 9-Noon
- NSCAS ACT Oct. 18, 9-Noon
- NSCAS Additional Topics* Oct. 27, 9-Noon

*NSCAS Alternate, Formative Supports, NAEP, PL, SIPS

- The workshops provides detailed information about the NDE's statewide assessment program.
- The session will be recorded.

Wrapping up 2020-21

- Thanks!
- Districts have access to preliminary NSCAS Phase I Pilot, NSCAS Alternate, & NSCAS ACT Data
- Final Data from Vendors
 - NSCAS Alternate July 20, 2021
 - NSCAS Pilot Aug. 12, 2021
 - NSCAS ACT Aug. 19, 2021
- Preliminary data is useable—Use Caution with all 2021 Results

Wrapping up 2020-21

- Reporting in a special report that includes additional context for understanding and interpreting results
 - NDE is working on additional communication resources for districts
 - Current Schedule
 - September 1, 2021 NEP Secure (NEP Secure-to review data)
 - September 17, 2021 Public Special Report
- Reminder—no accountability determinations for 2020-21

Wrapping up 2020-21

- **NSCAS Innovation - Still Moving Forward**

- Still working towards providing the best of MAP Growth and NSCAS Summative
- Key step is the linking study to establish link to RIT
- Initial findings are promising; they enable us to continue moving forward and combine the two item banks

NSCAS Growth 2021-2022 Transition Year

Fall

MAP Growth*

(Science, Reading,
Language, Math)

Winter

NSCAS Growth Pilot
(ELA, Math)

MAP Growth*

(Science, *Reading*,
Language, *Math*)

Spring

NSCAS Growth
(ELA, Math)

NSCAS Summative
(Science)

MAP Growth* (Science,
Reading, *Language*, *Math*)

*District optional

NDE Recommendation for MAP Growth in 2021-22

- Districts should review the information about the linking study. District leadership should discuss the pros and cons of proceeding with MAP Growth in the winter and spring of 2021-2022.
 - If your district relies upon MAP Growth data for any processes, consider giving MAP Growth in 2021-22 since NSCAS Growth will not yet be fully operational.

MAP Growth K-2 and 9-10

- In addition to MAP Growth for grades 3-8, NDE will be funding MAP Growth for K-2 and 9-10 for the 2021-2022 school year

| MAP Growth K-2 | MAP Growth 9-10 |
|--|---|
| Grades K-1 (Reading and Math) Grade 2 (Reading, Language Usage, Math and Science) | Reading, Language Usage, Math and Science |
| Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer | Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer |

*Additional funding for MAP Growth K-2 and 9-10 in 2022-23 & 2023-24

Statewide Assessment Dates 2021-22

- **NSCAS Growth Winter Pilot Window**
 - Dec 1 - Jan 28, 2022
- **ELPA21 2022**
 - Feb 7 – Mar 18, 2022
- **NSCAS ACT**
 - See next slide
- **NSCAS General (NSCAS Growth & Science) & NSCAS Alternate Window**
 - Mar 21 – Apr 29, 2022
 - May 2 – May 6, 2022 (Makeup week)

** Districts may set their MAP Growth window at their own discretion as in past administrations*

NSCAS ACT 2021-22

NSCAS ACT Dates for 2021-22

Test Window 1

Standard Administration (Paper): March 22, 2022

Accommodations Administration (Paper): March 22-25 & March 28-31 & April 1

Standard & ACT-Authorized Accommodations (Online): March 22-24 & March 29-31

Test Window 2

Standard Administration (Paper): April 5, 2022

Accommodations Administration (Paper): April 5-8 & April 11-15

Standard & ACT-Authorized Accommodations (Online): April 5-7 & April 12-14

Test Window 3 Makeup Only

Standard Administration (Paper): April 19, 2022

Accommodations Administration (Paper): April 19-22 & April 25-29

Standard & ACT-Authorized Accommodations (Online): April 19-21 & April 26-28

Please remember that you will have a choice between the first two assessment windows. Any subsequent window could be used for makeup testing. The third window (April 19) is makeup only.

NSCAS Science Spring 2022

- NSCAS General
 - Operational Test for grades 5 & 8
 - Task Based
 - Standard Setting (Cut Scores) Summer of 2022
 - [Formative Task Repository](#) (additional grades coming soon!)
- NSCAS Alternate
 - Operational Test for 5th, 8th, & 11th Grades
 - Similar to ELA and Mathematics (Match Items with Common Prompt)
 - Standard Setting (Cut Scores) Summer of 2022
 - [Extended Science Standards](#) for non-tested grades, Coming Soon!
 - [Instructional Supports](#) Coming Soon!

NSCAS Alternate 2021-2022

- Online test with printable paper option (you do not receive materials)
- Be sure IEP teams are using NDE guidelines to determine eligibility
- NE is nearing the federally mandated less than 1% participation, but we will likely apply for a waiver again
 - Waiver process requires all districts to submit justification paperwork
 - Fall 2021 - share with SPED Directors
- Third-year cohort students that qualify have to take this test
- [Instructional Supports for science and math, Coming Soon!](#)

NAEP 2022

- New NAEP Coordinator, Polly Bowhay
 - Participation
 - Approximately 100 Nebraska districts will be selected
 - Sampled districts will be notified in late August/early September
 - Approximately 200+ Nebraska schools will be selected
 - Sampled schools will be notified in September
 - Testing Window: January 24-March 4, 2022
 - Reading/Math for all 4th and 8th grade in selected schools
 - Civics and US History for a smaller set selected 8th grade schools
 - School, teacher, student questionnaires & additional Covid 19 questions

Professional Learning & Formative Supports

- Continue to utilize Certified Facilitator Program to support assessment work across the state
 - Maintain support for Balanced Assessment Systems
 - Continue professional learning with assessment literacy
 - Add support for NSCAS Growth
- Formative Assessment Supports
 - Additional support-Dr. Dennison Bhola
 - Formative Assessment Supports Network
 - Supporting Balanced Assessment System
 - Expanding assessment literacy support
 - Content Area Supports

NSCAS Growth (Grades 3-8, ELA & Math)

- Announced in fall of 2019
- Evolution of NSCAS
- Combination of MAP Growth and NSCAS Summative
- Adaptive through-year model

NSCAS Growth

- Allows measurement goals to be defined during the test administration based on prior knowledge about the student and knowledge gained within the current test
 - Maximum efficiency—stop asking questions about what students know and can do that we know the answers to and instead use that time to ask questions that still need answering
 - Actionable results tailored to each student—start asking questions that relate directly to what students and teachers need to know to improve instruction multiple times a year, not just annually

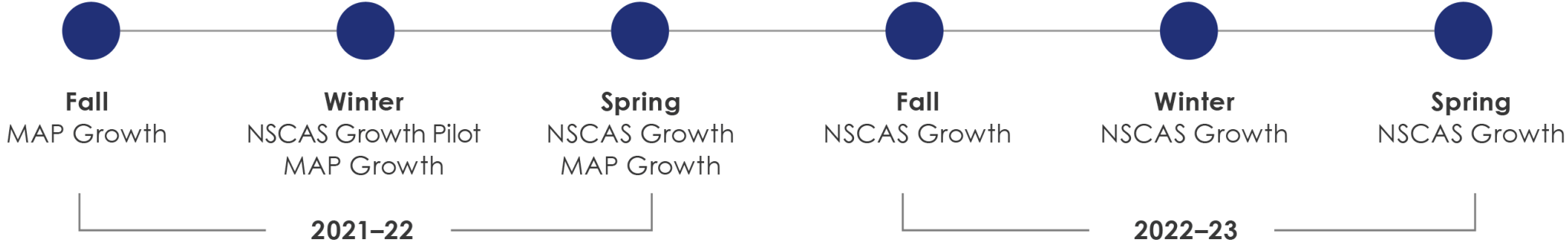
The Path Forward

2021-22: Preliminary transition

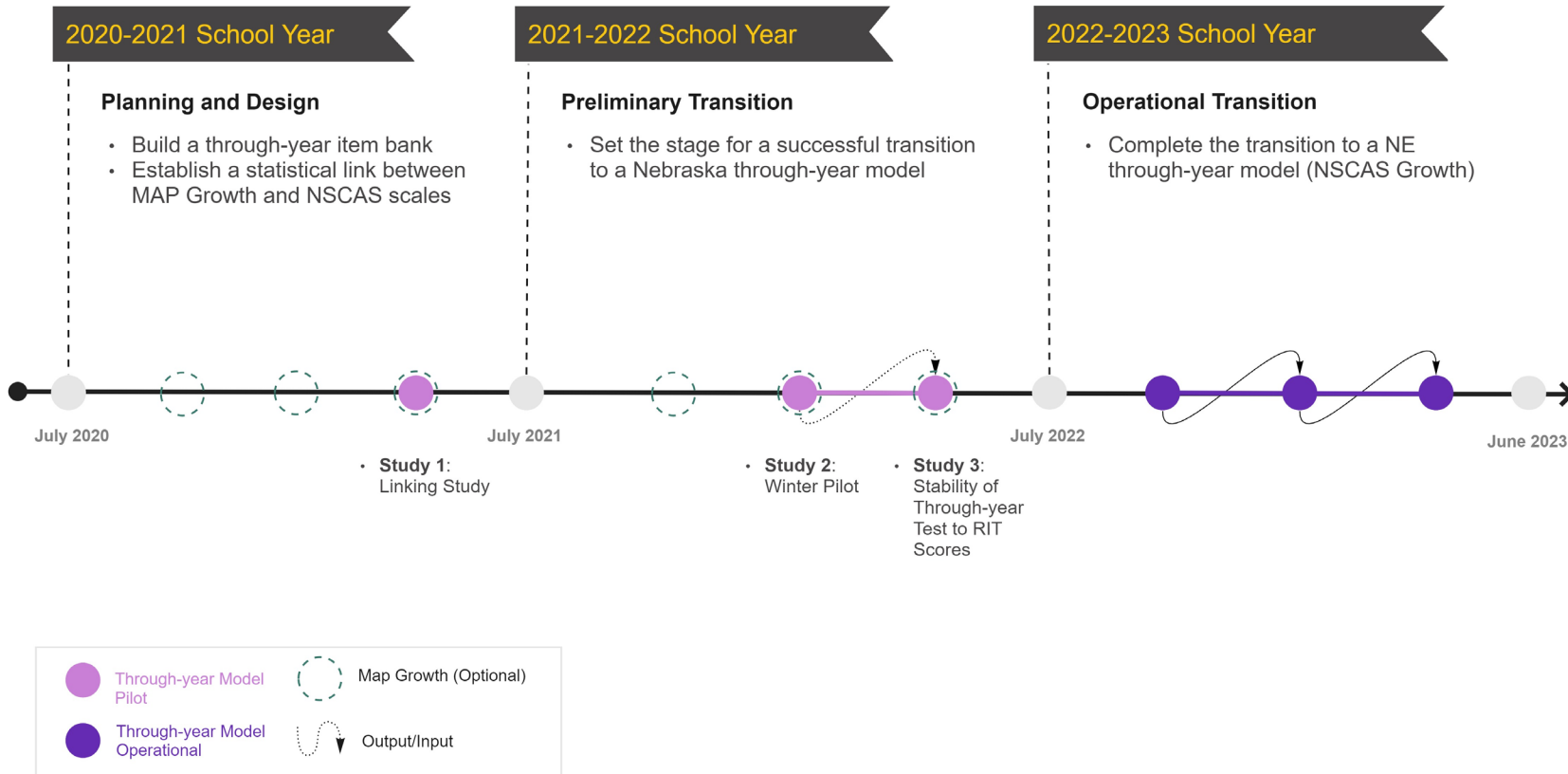
- NSCAS Growth pilot in winter; NSCAS Growth in spring
- MAP Growth recommended as well, as NSCAS Growth not yet operational

2022-23: Operational transition

- NSCAS Growth in fall, winter, and spring
- MAP Growth and NSCAS General Summative no longer needed



NSCAS Growth Research



- **Study 1 (Spring 21):** Linking study – establish item bank, statistical link
- **Study 2 (Winter 21/22):** NSCAS Growth pilot – validate model
- **Study 3 (Spring 22):** NSCAS Growth census – verify that score trends are consistent with both the linked RIT and NSCAS scale scores
- **Operational (2022-23):** If study outcomes are as expected, we will transition to operational NSCAS Growth in Fall 2022

NSCAS Growth Winter Pilot



Pilot Objectives

- Validate the Nebraska adaptive through-year model
- Experience the assessment and platform ahead of the spring census administration
- Provide feedback on test administration and reporting to support improvements



Caveats

- Pilot will not feature a complete suite of reports and tools
- Results may not represent the timing/turnaround expected in operational year
- Districts will need to decide if they should administer MAP Growth in the winter if scores are used for high-stakes decision-making or used with MAP Accelerator or other content connections

NSCAS Growth Winter Pilot Participation

- NSCAS Growth (Grades 3-8, ELA & Math)
- All students will be required to participate in a single assessment, either ELA or math
 - NDE will assign the assessments; students in the same school and class will take the same test for logistical ease
- Districts may opt to give students both assessments

Platform for NSCAS Growth

- New, enhanced platform – neither the MAP Growth nor the NSCAS General Summative platform
- New platform aims to address feedback from NE educators regarding the existing platform:
 - Time spent creating test sessions
 - Difficulties transferring students between districts
 - Need for more flexible user roles
 - More streamlined approach to off-site testing (such as external programs)

New platform highlights

- Test Sessions can automatically be created by class information provided in the roster.
- In-platform ability to transfer students between districts and notifications to DACs when students have been transferred.
- Flexibility to differentiate between home school and testing site if different.
- Students will be grouped by testing status and shown as a percentage to easily identify testing progress.
- Accommodations/accessibility may be assigned automatically with roster upload.

NSCAS Growth Data

Information produced by NSCAS Growth

What

When

RIT scores, including access to national norms

Fall, winter, spring

Grade-level data based on indicators used to determine summative proficiency

Fall, winter, spring

Projected summative proficiency scores

Fall, winter

Official summative proficiency scores and classification

Spring

Remember that 2021-22 is a *preliminary transition year*, so MAP Growth could be administered if RIT is used for high-stakes decision-making or MAP Accelerator/curricular connections

Professional learning



Webinar(s) will support understanding of NSCAS Growth reports and data expected from the 2021-22 winter pilot and spring administration



Professional learning for 2022-23 will support effective use of grade-level and grade-independent data from NSCAS Growth to inform instruction and foster student learning

NSCAS Growth Resources

- Introductory Videos
 - Universal
 - Educator
- NSCAS Growth Admin Day presentation
 - High level summary
- Vignettes – More detailed specific exploration
 - Content
 - Psychometric
 - Data and Reports
 - Experience
- NSCAS Growth one-sheet
- NSCAS FAQ

NSCAS Growth FAQ Sessions

- NSCAS Growth Q&A
 - Recording
- Planned Q&A sessions with vignette release
 - Tuesday, August 10th 1-2 PM CT
 - Wednesday, August 18th 3-4 PM CT
 - Tuesday, September 7th 12-1 PM CT

Launch Nebraska Nebraska's Framework for School Renewal & Acceleration

Resources to support each Key Components:

- System Considerations
- High-Quality Instructional Materials & Content
- Diagnosing Unfinished Teaching & Learning
- Planning for Acceleration
- Ensuring Equitable Instruction
- Professional Learning for Teachers & School Leaders

Please contact us
if you have
questions!

- [Contact Us Link](#)
- Statewide Assessment Office
402-314-3013
nde.stateassessment@nebraska.gov

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Thank You!