

NDSA Factsheet 2020-21

This factsheet contains important information about the 2020–2021 North Dakota State Assessments (NDSA) in English Language Arts (ELA), math, and science.

NDSA Testing Window: March 15–May 7, 2021

What's New in 2020-2021?

- Reading, math, and science will be administered as adaptive tests.
- Science Tests will be administered for grades 4, 8, and 10.
- Training Test has been updated to include additional tools and tests.

New Testing Tools

- Universal testing tools:
 - English glossary
 - Line Reader – Enhanced
 - Enhanced Strikethrough
 - Writing assessment rubrics for grade 8 and 10 Writing assessments
- Accommodation/Designated Supports testing tools:
 - Text-to-Speech on Constructed Response Items
 - Embedded Speech-to-Text is available as an alternative to using third party Speech-to-Text applications.
 - Spanish language toggle is available for math and science assessments only.
 - Closed captioning is available for audio content and replaces the need to order Audio Transcripts.
 - Spanish glossary is available for ELA, math, and science assessments.

Online Tests Administered in 2020-2021

- The North Dakota State Assessment will include the following:
 - ELA (reading and writing) and math will be administered for grades 3–8 and 10.
 - Science will be administered for grades 4, 8, and 10.
 - Math and science assessments will have a Spanish language option that must be set in TIDE.
 - ELA, math, and science assessments will have a braille language option that must be set in TIDE.
 - Training tests are available for ELA, math, and science for practice.
- Interim assessments are not administered by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

Preparing for Testing

- Each test administrator must have an account in TIDE to administer online assessments. If you do not have a

TIDE account, contact your School Test Coordinator or District Test Coordinator. Your TIDE account provides access to all CAI systems.

- If you were registered in TIDE last year, you will be required to update your password.
- The online TA Certification Course must be completed by all test administrators prior to administering the NDSA assessment. Test administrators must take the course regardless if taken last year.

Braille

A braille version of ELA, mathematics, and science assessments is available. Please contact DPI to place orders.

Accessibility and Accommodations

- NDSA Portal site is compliant with WCAG 2.0 AA standards.
- Ensure all student test settings are correctly set in TIDE at least 24 hours before the test administration.
- Paper-pencil accommodations are not being offered this year. However, zoom and print-on-demand accommodations are available.
- A Spanish language designated support is available on math and science assessments. The [Spanish Quick Guide](#) is available on the NDSA portal for further help setting up this accommodation.
- Spanish language Toggle will be available for all math and science assessments in Spring 2021.
- Detailed information on universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations can be found in the NDSA Accessibility Manual and the TIDE User Guide located in the resources section of the NDSA Portal.
- Headphones should be made available to students during reading assessments or if the student has accommodation requirements (e.g. text to speech).

Test Administration

Training Tests

Training tests are available on the portal for ELA, math, and science. Administration of the tests is an opportunity for the TA and the student to familiarize themselves with the testing environment, testing interface, and tools prior to testing. Student may take the training tests as many times as desired using any supported browser.

Cluster Tests have been added to the training tests this year. Clusters are test items that are designed to assess multiple standards within a specific English Language Arts (ELA) or mathematics context. The [Cluster Test explanation guide](#) can be found on the NDSA portal.

Tools for the training test have been updated. Students taking the training test in the secure browser will be able to test out the embedded speech to text feature.

Operational Tests

Students must take the NDSA operational tests using the secure browser. Ensure that the secure browser is installed on all testing devices in advance of administration. Students have only a single opportunity to take each assessment in the NDSA. If a test is not submitted by the end of the testing window, it will expire.

Are there stopping points to the test? Do teachers just pick when to stop?

The tests in each subject can be administered in multiple time segments. The segments do not need to be based on the number of questions completed. Students can start up in a new session where they left off in the last session. However, students will not be able to go back to questions from previous sessions. As a good practice to follow, for example, if students have a 60-minute test period, the TA can tell students after 50 minutes that they have 10 minutes left to review everything they have completed.

Is there a waiting period between Reading and Writing?

The ELA portion of the 2020-2021 NDSA will be administered as **2 separate tests** (Reading and Writing). Test administrators will have the option to administer both the Reading and Writing in 1 test session or to break up the administration of the test into 2 separate sessions. This will allow test administrators to administer the Reading and Writing tests on different days, if preferred.

Remote Testing

The remote testing option is available only for schools who have received prior authorization from DPI. Test Administrators will be required to take the Test Administrator Remote Certification course prior to testing. Further information about remote testing may be found on the NDSA portal.

Score Reporting

- Scores from the Math and ELA tests will generally be available upon completion of testing in “near real-time.”
- ELA scores will be available only after **both** the Reading and Writing have been completed.
- Scores for the 2020-2021 NDSA Science will be available in early Fall 2021.
- Some tests may necessitate human scoring for writing prompts. For tests requiring human scoring it will take up to 10 business days after completion of testing for scores to be posted on Reporting.
- Authorized users can access scores and performance information for prior school years on Reporting.

Additional Information

Please consult the NDSA Portal for more information on assessment systems and test administration resources.

Contact the NDSA Help Desk

For questions and technical assistance, please contact the NDSA Help Desk by email at ndsaservicecenter@cambiumassessment.com or by phone (toll-free) at 1-855-873-5715.

Help Desk Hours of Operation: Monday–Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Central Time)