

Elementary and Middle School Grades 3–8

Beginning-of-Grade 3 (BOG3) Reading Test

- The BOG3 reading test must be completed online unless a paper format is necessary for students with a documented accessibility need.
- The BOG3 reading test must be administered through the NCTest platform during the state-designated testing window (i.e., days 1–15 of school year). The NCTest platform opens on July 16, 2026.
- The BOG3 reading test:
 - is aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) for grade 3 English language arts.
 - establishes a baseline measure of beginning third-grade students' reading comprehension.
 - satisfies the requirements of the Read to Achieve legislation for students who score achievement level 3 or higher on the test. Students who are not proficient on the end-of-grade test but were proficient on the BOG3 reading test count as proficient in the performance composite and school performance grades.
 - is used for school accountability growth and student growth for teachers and administrators.
 - serves as a teacher-growth tool for determining those teachers who are well-suited to teach at reading camps ([G.S. §115C-83.3\[4a\]](#)).
- Students read literary and informational 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.

End-of-Grade (EOG) Tests

- EOG tests must be completed online unless a paper format is necessary for students with a documented accessibility need.
- The testing window is the last ten days of the school year.
- Reading
 - 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.
- Mathematics
 - Mathematics tests are aligned to the NCSCOS for mathematics.
 - Mathematics tests consist of two parts: calculator inactive and calculator active. Students may use a calculator only for the calculator active part of the test.
- Science
 - Science tests at grades 5 and 8 are aligned to the NCSCOS for science.

High School Grades 9–12

End-of-Course (EOC) Tests

- EOC tests must be completed online unless a paper format is necessary for students with a documented accessibility need.
- The testing window is the final five instructional days of the semester or the final ten instructional days of a yearlong course.
- 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 test at the completion of the course.
- EOC tests are aligned to the NCSCOS for English language arts and mathematics and the North Carolina Essential Standards for science.
- The NC Math 1 test consists of two parts: calculator inactive and calculator active. Students may use a calculator only for the calculator active part of the test.
- The NC Math 3 test contains only calculator active questions.
- Per [16 NCAC 06D .0309](#), schools are to use results from all EOC tests as a minimum of 20 percent of the student's final grade for each respective course.

PreACT

- The PreACT is administered annually to all eligible tenth graders via paper or online format. Test format is a local decision.
- The PreACT is a state required test per [G.S. § 115C-174.22](#).
- The PreACT simulates The ACT testing experience. It includes four subtests, English reading, math, and science, but is shorter in length than The ACT.
- The multiple-choice test is designed to provide both current achievement scores and projected ACT test scores on the 1–36 ACT score scale.
- Detailed reports help to identify students' specific strengths and weaknesses. Additional reporting includes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), career readiness, and understanding complex texts.
- The PreACT assessment is designed to help parents or legal guardians and educators identify areas where students may need additional academic support or remediation during the tenth-grade year.
- The PreACT can help initiate conversations between parents or legal guardians and schools regarding dual enrollment decisions, identifying curriculum gaps, implementing interventions on behalf of students, and choosing AP classes.
- The test administration window for the PreACT is October 12, 2026–November 20, 2025.

The ACT

- The ACT is a required state assessment for all eligible eleventh graders per [G.S. § 115C-174.11\(4\)](#). (Retained eleventh graders who do not have a score from their first year in eleventh grade are expected to test during the state-sponsored administration of The ACT during their second year in eleventh grade.)
- The ACT is a curriculum- and standards-based assessment that evaluates students' college and career readiness in English, mathematics, reading, and science.

- Each section of The ACT is multiple-choice and is scored on a 1–36 point scale. Beginning in the 2025–26 school year, The ACT composite score will reflect the average of English, mathematics, and reading (EMR) subtests. Students will receive standalone scores for all subjects, to include the science subtest and a STEM score (science and math combined).
- The ACT may be used for college admissions, placement, and scholarships. It is accepted by most colleges and universities in the United States.
- The ACT provides a path to increase student access to postsecondary and workforce opportunities.
- Additional reporting includes career readiness and understanding complex texts.

ACT WorkKeys

- The WorkKeys assessments are required for all eligible CTE concentrators per [G.S. § 115C-174.25](#).
- The three WorkKeys assessments, Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents, are the basis of the WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (WorkKeys NCRC).
- 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, 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 and use written text such as memos, letters, directions, signs, notices, bulletins, policies, and regulations on the job. The assessment is defined through a combination of the text complexity level of a reading passage and the skill elicited by the item.
- Students who achieve qualifying scores on the Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents assessments can earn a WorkKeys NCRC at the Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum levels of readiness. The nationally recognized certificate provides employers with information on the skill levels of potential employees and aids with employment, promotion, and training decisions.
- The WorkKeys standard and accommodated testing windows are as follows:
 - Fall 2026: October 5–November 13, 2026
 - Spring 2027: February 22–April 2, 2027
- Online administrations are required for all WorkKeys testing unless a paper format is necessary for students with a documented need for accessibility purposes. Paper test materials must be ordered through ACT during the appropriate test material ordering window.
- Results from the statewide administrations of WorkKeys are available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/testing-and-school-accountability/school-accountability-and-reporting/act-reports>.

Alternate Assessments

NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessments

- The NCEXTEND1 is designed for students with disabilities who:
 - have a current Individualized Education Program (IEP),
 - have a significant cognitive disability,
 - are enrolled in grades 3–8, 10, or 11 according to the NC Student Information System, and
 - are instructed in the North Carolina Extended Content Standards (i.e., reading, mathematics, science).
- The NCEXTEND1 reading and mathematics alternate assessments (grades 3–8 and 10) and the science alternate assessments (grades 5, 8, and 10) measure the North Carolina Extended Content Standards adopted by the State Board of Education.
- The NCEXTEND1 at grade 11 is provided as an alternate to The ACT test as required per [General Statute § 115C-174.11\(c\)\(4\)](#). The grade 11 assessment includes English language arts/reading, mathematics, and science questions.
- Alternate assessments are administered during designated state testing windows.

College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment (CCRAA) 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,
 - 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 must be completed online unless a paper format is necessary for students with a documented accessibility need.
- The administration of the CCRAA at Grade 10 occurs simultaneously with the PreACT testing window in the fall.

CCRAA 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,
 - are not receiving instruction in the North Carolina Extended Content Standards, and
 - 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 must be completed online unless a paper format is necessary for students with a documented accessibility need.
- The CCRAA at Grade 11 is administered during the spring accommodations testing windows for The ACT.

English Learner (EL) Identification and Language Proficiency Testing

WIDA™ Screener, WIDA Alternate Screener, and WIDA Screener for Kindergarten

- EL students are identified through the home-language survey process.
- Eligibility for the WIDA Screener at grades 1–12, WIDA Alternate Screener, and WIDA Screener for Kindergarten is based on results of the Home Language Survey process.
- The WIDA Screener (grades 1–12) is administered online. The WIDA Alternate Screener and WIDA Screener for Kindergarten are administered with paper materials. The appropriate screener is administered to all eligible students within thirty calendar days of enrollment.
- The screeners determine if a student is identified as an EL. If a student is identified as an EL, the Screeners provide guidance regarding the level of EL support a student should receive.
- The Screeners consist of subtests that assess a student's English speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills.
- The score on the WIDA Screener and WIDA Screener for Kindergarten also help to determine EL testing accommodations, if needed, on state tests.

WIDA ACCESS

- WIDA ACCESS is the state-designated EL proficiency test.
- All EL students must be assessed annually to determine progress and level of English language proficiency.
- The WIDA ACCESS, WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten, and the WIDA Alternate ACCESS test consist of subtests that assess a student's English speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills.
- All students identified as ELs must be administered the WIDA ACCESS, WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten or its alternate assessment during the testing window.
- The WIDA ACCESS test must be administered online. WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten is a paper test administration.
- Results from the administrations of ACCESS tests are used to measure progress and proficiency of ELs in the English language.

WIDA Alternate ACCESS

- The WIDA Alternate ACCESS is an assessment of English language proficiency for students in grades K–12 who are identified as ELs and have significant cognitive disabilities that prevent participation in the WIDA ACCESS test. The WIDA Alternate ACCESS is available for ELs who:
 - have a current Individualized Education Program (IEP),
 - are instructed using the North Carolina Extended Content Standards (i.e., reading, mathematics, science), and
 - are eligible to participate in the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessment when enrolled in the appropriate grades (i.e., grades 3-8, 10, and 11).
- The WIDA Alternate ACCESS has four assessment domains: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.

- Test scores can be used to inform instruction and monitor progress of ELs in a school or district.

National Assessment of Education Program (NAEP)

- North Carolina participates in the NAEP, also known as the Nation's Report Card.
- The 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 the NAEP.
- State-level results are reported for grades four and eight in mathematics, reading, and science. This allows comparisons among states and the nation.
- Selected students at ages nine, thirteen, and seventeen participate in the 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 the NAEP. Results for grade 12 are only reported at the national level.
- The NAEP has special studies and assessments that are established by the National Assessment Governing Board.

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