



# **INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT INTERPRETIVE GUIDE FOR PARENTS**

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**Spring 2021 NSCAS Phase 1 Pilot  
English Language Arts & Mathematics**

## Contributors

Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Assessments are administered by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE):

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The assessment contractor is NWEA.

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# Introduction

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## Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS)

This past spring, your student took the NSCAS Phase 1 Pilot and Science field test assessments. 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 spring 2021 NSCAS tests administered for ELA and Mathematics are transitional and are designed to help Nebraska prepare to implement an improved approach to assessing student grade-level performance in the 2021–22 school year. Students may have noticed that the tests are also shorter, reflecting the state’s effort to preserve instructional time in spring 2021 in recognition of the unique circumstances created by the pandemic this year.

Once your student completed the NSCAS assessments, the results were calculated, and a score was generated and reported in the form of an Individual Student Report (ISR). ISRs only show scores for ELA and Mathematics. Since Science is a field test, no results are reported. The operational test for Science will be administered in spring 2022.

This guide provides an example report and explains the data it contains to help you understand your student’s report. If you have questions after reading this guide and reviewing your student’s ISR, you can find more information under the Parents/Students tab of the Nebraska Community Portal at <https://nwea.force.com/nweaconnection/s/nebraska>. If you need further information, please contact your student’s teacher or school.

## Achievement Levels

Students’ performance on the NSCAS assessments is reported as a scale score and achievement level. Scale scores are a numeric representation of the students’ performance in each content area. 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 in each content area.

The achievement levels for ELA and Mathematics are described on the next page.

## Achievement Levels for 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.

# Individual Student Report (ISR)

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) show a student’s achievement on the NSCAS ELA and Mathematics tests. Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2 present sample reports for Page 1 and Page 2, respectively. Explanations for the different parts of the report are 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, state student identification number, and grade, and may include the district and school in which your student was enrolled at the time they were tested.

2

### Report Introduction

This section has a description of the NSCAS assessments. It also explains what the scores and achievement levels mean. Scale scores are your student’s test scores. Achievement levels are a summary of how well your student performed in each content area.

3

### Overall Performance

Your student’s scale score for each content area is provided, along with a linked RIT score representing their expected achievement on a MAP Growth test taken the same day. The scale score range and possible linked RIT range are also shown.

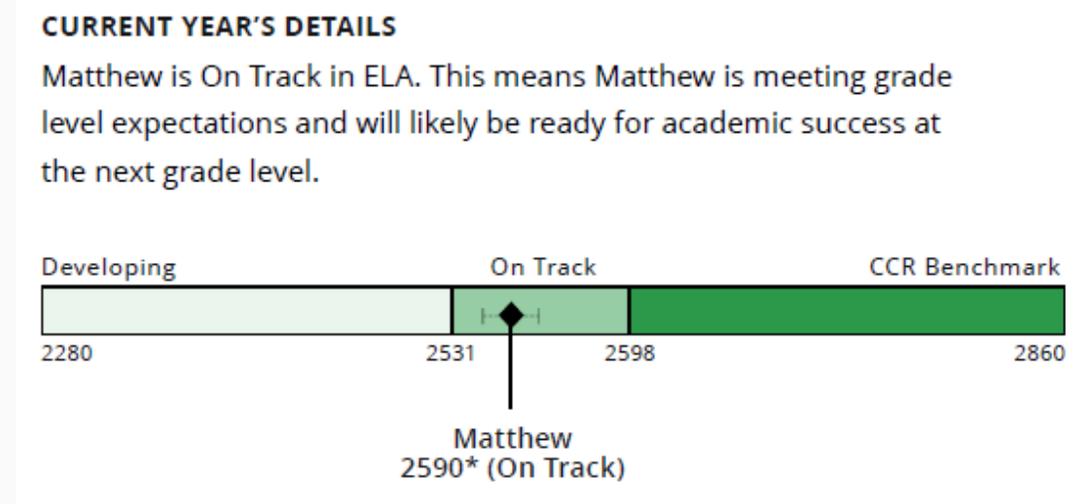
Note: Score ranges for each content area are scaled separately. Therefore, the scale scores for one content area cannot be compared to another content area. Instead, use the corresponding achievement level for this purpose.

4

### Performance by Content Area

The last section on Page 1 and all of Page 2 provides your student’s current achievement level scores in each content area.

Each scale score is shown with a range. If tested again under similar circumstances, we would expect your student’s score to fall within the range shown in the graphic below.



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**5****Historical Score Data**

The graph shows the scores received in 2019 and 2021. The white diamond in the trend line shows that no testing occurred in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The tests were longer in 2019 than in 2021; therefore, the trend line shows relative comparisons across time. Your student will not have previous years' data if they have not taken an NSCAS test before this year, and 3rd and 4th grade students will not have historical data.

If you have questions about this report or would like to know how you can use its results to help your student learn, please contact your student's teacher or school.

Figure 1.1 Sample Report—ISR, Page 1



**1** 2021 INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT  
**LAST\_NAME, FIRST\_NAME, M.**  
**ID:** 1234567890 **Grade:** 5  
**District:** LAKE COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**School:** WILBER WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**2** **What is NSCAS?**  
 The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) tests are given each Spring. NSCAS provides valuable information to educators and policy makers as they work to improve the educational system. The COVID-19 Pandemic caused many educational disruptions, the Spring 2021 tests were shortened to preserve as much instructional time as possible.

**What do the NSCAS scores mean?**

The scores from the Spring 2021 test provide information on where the student is located along the test scale that represents the progression of knowledge and skills that should be mastered for their grade level. For each content area, you will see the student's Achievement Level.

**What does the RIT Score mean?**

The student's linked RIT score represents their expected achievement on a MAP Growth test taken the same day.

**What are the Achievement Levels?**

Each score corresponds to an Achievement Level. There are three Achievement Levels for NSCAS. On Track and CCR (College and Career Ready Benchmark) represent the grade-level targets for all students based on Nebraska's rigorous content area standards. Developing is used where students still have growth opportunity for those grade-level targets.

**Need more information?**

See the Parent Interpretive Guide:  
<https://nwea.force.com/nweaconnection/s/nebraska>

To see sample test questions, visit  
<https://nwea.force.com/nweaconnection/s/nebraska>

**FIRST\_NAME's Overall Performance** **3**

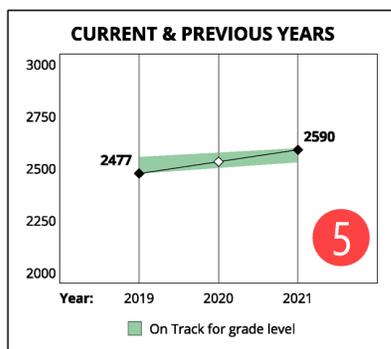
Content Area	Student's NSCAS Scores	Possible Range	Student's Linked RIT Scores	Possible Linked RIT Range
<b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS</b>	<b>2590</b>	2280-2860	<b>226</b>	100-350
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>1150</b>	1020-1510	<b>198</b>	100-350

The NSCAS score represents what the student knows about each content area in terms of what is expected for their grade level.

**What should I do with this?**

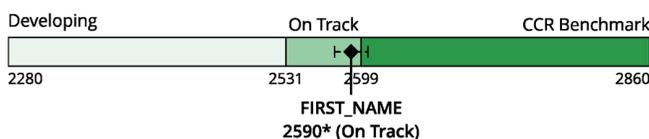
The 20-21 school year was impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, which may have led to unfinished or interrupted learning, and may have impacted students' scores. Other measures of student learning and performance may provide additional context for this school year.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)** FIRST\_NAME's Achievement Level = On Track **4**



**CURRENT YEAR'S DETAILS**

This score falls in the "On Track" range for ELA, which indicates that a student is meeting grade-level expectations and will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.



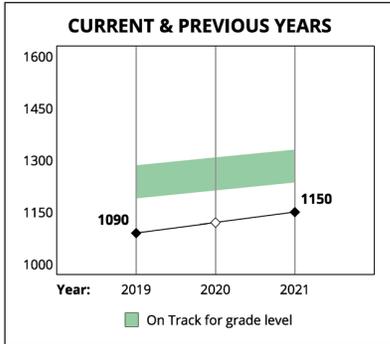
The graph shows the scores the student received in 2019 and 2021. The white diamond in the trend line shows that no testing occurred in 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The tests were longer in 2019 than in 2021; therefore, the trend line shows relative comparisons across time.

\*If tested again under similar circumstances, we would expect your child's scores to fall within the range shown above

Figure 1.2 Sample Report—ISR, Page 2

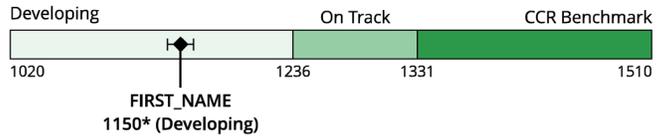


**MATHEMATICS** FIRST\_NAME's Achievement Level = Developing



**CURRENT YEAR'S DETAILS**

This score falls in the "Developing" range for Mathematics, which indicates that a student is not meeting grade-level expectations and may need additional support for academic success at the next grade level.



The graph shows the scores the student received in 2019 and 2021. The white diamond in the trend line shows that no testing occurred in 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The tests were longer in 2019 than in 2021; therefore, the trend line shows relative comparisons across time.

\*If tested again under similar circumstances, we would expect your child's scores to fall within the range shown above 1--1

# Common Questions

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<b>How do teachers, district administrators, and state administrators use the scores from the NSCAS assessments?</b>	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 in order to target investments in professional learning.
<b>I am missing one of the scores for my student's test under Overall Performance.</b>	If "no score" appears, then your student was not assessed in that content area. If you see a three-letter code, this is called a "Not-Tested Code" (NTC). NTCs include <b>COV</b> (student did not test due to COVID-19 pandemic), <b>EMW</b> (medical emergency), <b>INV</b> (student's test was invalid), <b>NLE</b> (student was not enrolled when the district tested), <b>PAR</b> (parent requested that the student not be tested), <b>SAE</b> (student was absent during the test window), <b>STR</b> (student refused to be tested), and <b>UTT</b> (district was unable to test student). If a student had an NTC of INV, PAR, SAE, STR, or UTT assigned to their test, they received the lowest scale score and achievement level for that grade and content area. This automatically assigned score will show on the Scale Score portion of the report.
<b>How often will my student take NSCAS assessments?</b>	The NSCAS assessments are administered once a year in ELA and Mathematics for grades 3–8, and in Science for grades 5 and 8.
<b>Are the NSCAS assessments standardized tests?</b>	Yes, the NSCAS assessments are standardized tests. Standardized tests require all test takers to answer a selection of questions from a common bank of questions, and students are assessed under standardized conditions. 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.
<b>What types of questions are on NSCAS assessments?</b>	The NSCAS assessments include multiple choice, drag-and-drop, and other types of questions. To see sample item types, visit <a href="https://nwea.force.com/nweaconnection/s/nebraska-practice-tests">https://nwea.force.com/nweaconnection/s/nebraska-practice-tests</a>
<b>Where do I find my student's report if I have not already received it?</b>	Districts will distribute ISRs to schools for students to take home. If you have moved since the test was given, your report will be delivered to the new school. If you have not received your student's ISR, please contact your student's school.