



Individual Student Report Interpretive Guide for Parents

NSCAS Summative: English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science

Spring 2018

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Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS)

This past spring, your child took the NSCAS Summative tests. 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 NSCAS Summative test was taken on a computer or, if your child had a documented need, on paper. If your child took the test on a computer, the test was adaptive. This means that if your child answered a question correctly, the next question was more challenging; if your child answered incorrectly, the next question was easier. If your child took the test on paper, questions did not change based on how your child answered the previous question. Once your child completed the NSCAS Summative tests, the results were calculated, and a score was generated and reported in the form of an Individual Student Report (ISR).

This guide provides an example report and explains the data it contains to help you understand your child’s report. If you have questions after reading this guide and looking at your child’s ISR, please contact your child’s teacher or school.

Achievement Levels

Students’ performance on the NSCAS Summative assessment is reported as a scale score and achievement level. **Scale scores** for all grades range from 2220–2890 for ELA, 1000–1550 for Math, and from 0–200 for each grade in Science. 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 on each section of the test. Achievement levels are measured against the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards (CCR) for ELA and Mathematics, and the Nebraska Legacy Standards in Science. The different achievement levels are:

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.

Science:

- **Below the Standards:** Overall student performance in science reflects *unsatisfactory* performance on the standards and *insufficient* understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Below the Standards level *inconsistently* draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.
- **Meets the Standards:** Overall student performance in science reflects *satisfactory* performance on the standards and *sufficient* understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Meets the Standards level *generally* draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.
- **Exceeds the Standards:** Overall student performance in science reflects *high* academic performance on the standards and a *thorough* understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Exceeds the Standards level *consistently* draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.

Individual Student Report (ISR)

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) show a student's performance on the NSCAS ELA, Mathematics, and Science tests. Figure 1.2 and Figure 1.3 present sample reports for Page 1 and Page 2. Explanations for the different parts of the report are listed 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, student identification number, date of birth, grade, and the district and school in which the student is enrolled.

2 Report Introduction

This section has a description of the NSCAS. It also explains how achievement levels and scale scores are created and introduces the different components of the report. Scale scores are your child's test scores. Achievement levels are how well your child performed on each section of the test and are explained in more detail above. Each scale score is shown with a range that represents the accuracy of the score. If your child were tested again on the same test at the same time, we would expect his or her score to fall within this range as shown in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.2. Sample Report—ISR, Page 1

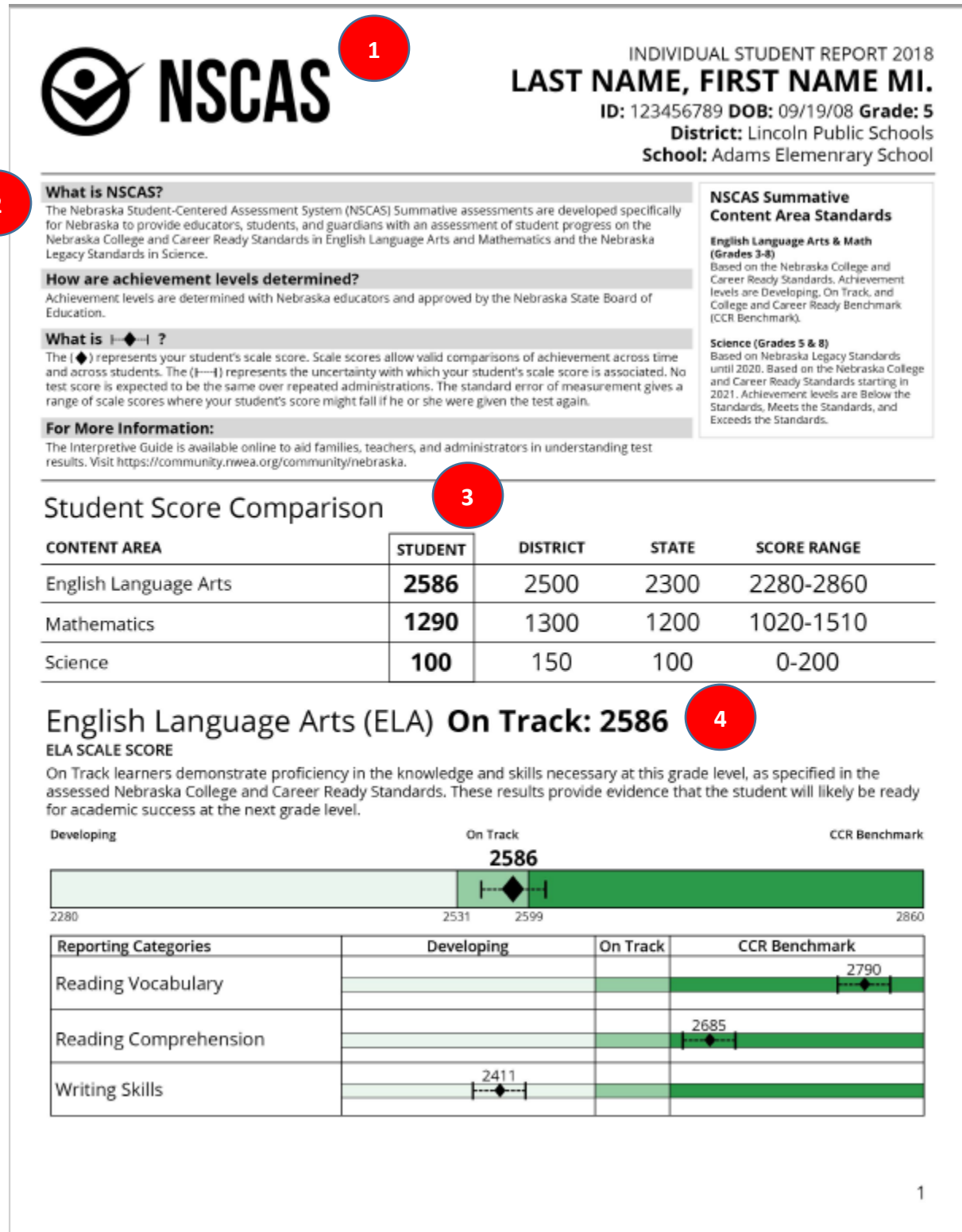


Figure 1.3. Sample Report—ISR, Page 2



INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT 2018
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME MI.

ID: 123456789 DOB: 09/19/08 Grade: 5
 District: Sample District Name
 School: Sample Elementary School Name

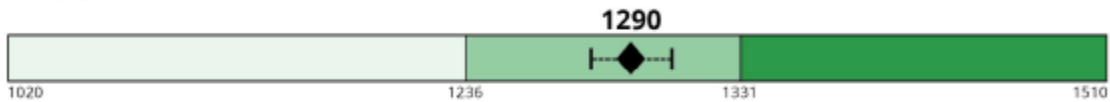
Mathematics On Track: 1290

4

MATHEMATICS SCALE SCORE

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.

Developing On Track CCR Benchmark



Reporting Categories	Developing	On Track	CCR Benchmark
Number	1180		
Algebra		1308	
Geometry	1075		
Data			1360

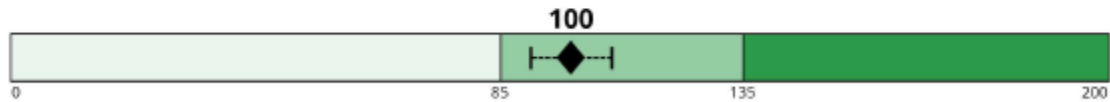
Science Meets the Standards: 100

4

SCIENCE SCALE SCORE

Overall student performance in science reflects satisfactory performance on the standards and sufficient understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Meets the Standards level generally draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.

Below the Standards Meets the Standards Exceeds the Standards



Demographic	Below the Standards	Meets the Standards	Exceeds the Standards
Inquiry, Nature of Science & Tech	54		
Physical Science		124	
Life Sciences	22		
Earth/Space Sciences			144

Common Questions

How do teachers, district administrators, and state administrators use the Summative test scores?

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.

I see no score for one of my child's tests, just three letters. What do they mean?

If your child did not take a test for any reason, a three-letter code called a "non-tested code" will appear in your child's report instead of a score. These include **EMW** (medical emergency), **INV** (student's test was invalid), **NLE** (student was not enrolled when the district tested), **PAR** (parent requested that the student not be tested), and **SAE** (student was absent during the test window).

How often will my child take NSCAS Summative tests?

The NSCAS Summative test is administered once a year in ELA and Mathematics for grades 3–8 and in Science for grades 5 and 8.

Is the NSCAS Summative a standardized test?

Yes, the NSCAS Summative is a standardized test. Standardized tests require all test takers to answer a selection of questions from a common bank of questions. 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.

What types of questions are on NSCAS Summative tests?

The NSCAS Summative tests include multiple choice, drag-and-drop, and other types of questions. To see sample item types, please visit <https://community.nwea.org/community/nebraska/practice-tests>.

Where do I find my child's report if I have not already received it?

Districts will distribute ISRs to schools to go to the student's home. If you have not received your child's ISR, please contact your child's school.