NSCAS NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

nwea acacia™

NSCAS Alternate Individual Student Report Interpretive Guide for Parents

2025–2026 NSCAS Alternate
English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science

March 2026

Contributors

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

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Part 1—Introduction

About NSCAS Alternate assessments

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), pronounced “EN-skass,” is a state-wide assessment. NSCAS Alternate assessments are designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities and measures their performance against Nebraska’s College and Career Ready Standards including the Extended Indicators in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for grades 3–8 and 11, and Science for grades 5, 8, and 11.

For students with the most significant intellectual disabilities, achieving grade-level standards is not the same as meeting grade-level expectations because their instructional program addresses extended indicators. Extended indicators are access or entry points to the grade-level standards. They are a starting place for moving students forward to conventional reading and writing.

Student achievement reporting

Student achievement on the NSCAS Alternate assessments is reported with a scale score and achievement level.

Scale scores range from 100-300 for ELA, Mathematics and Science. The scale score is an estimate of student achievement. The estimate is generated based on the questions the student answered correctly and then converted to a standard scale.

The Nebraska State Board of Education has defined three achievement levels for each content area:

- **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**: 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.
- **Advanced**: Learners demonstrate high levels of 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.

Part 2—Individual Student Report

The Individual Student Report, or ISR, shows a student's achievement on the NSCAS Alternate assessments.

A sample ISR is available on the following pages. Descriptions of the various areas of the report are below.

1. **Identification Information:** The top-right corner has the student's identification information. This includes the student's name, state student ID, grade, and the district and school where the student was enrolled when they were tested.
2. **Report Introduction:** This section describes the NSCAS Alternate assessments and explains what the scores and achievement levels mean. It also explains how the results are used in the classroom.
3. **Overall Performance:** This section gives an overview of the student's results and also shows the average score for all Nebraska students in this grade and content area.

   The student score shows the student's actual scale score in each content area, and the achievement level helps explain what the score means. The possible range shows where we would expect the student to score if they tested again under similar circumstances.

   Score ranges for each content area are scaled separately. This means that you shouldn't compare the student's score number for one content area to another. To compare the student's performance in different content areas, use the achievement level (Advanced, On Track, Developing) instead.

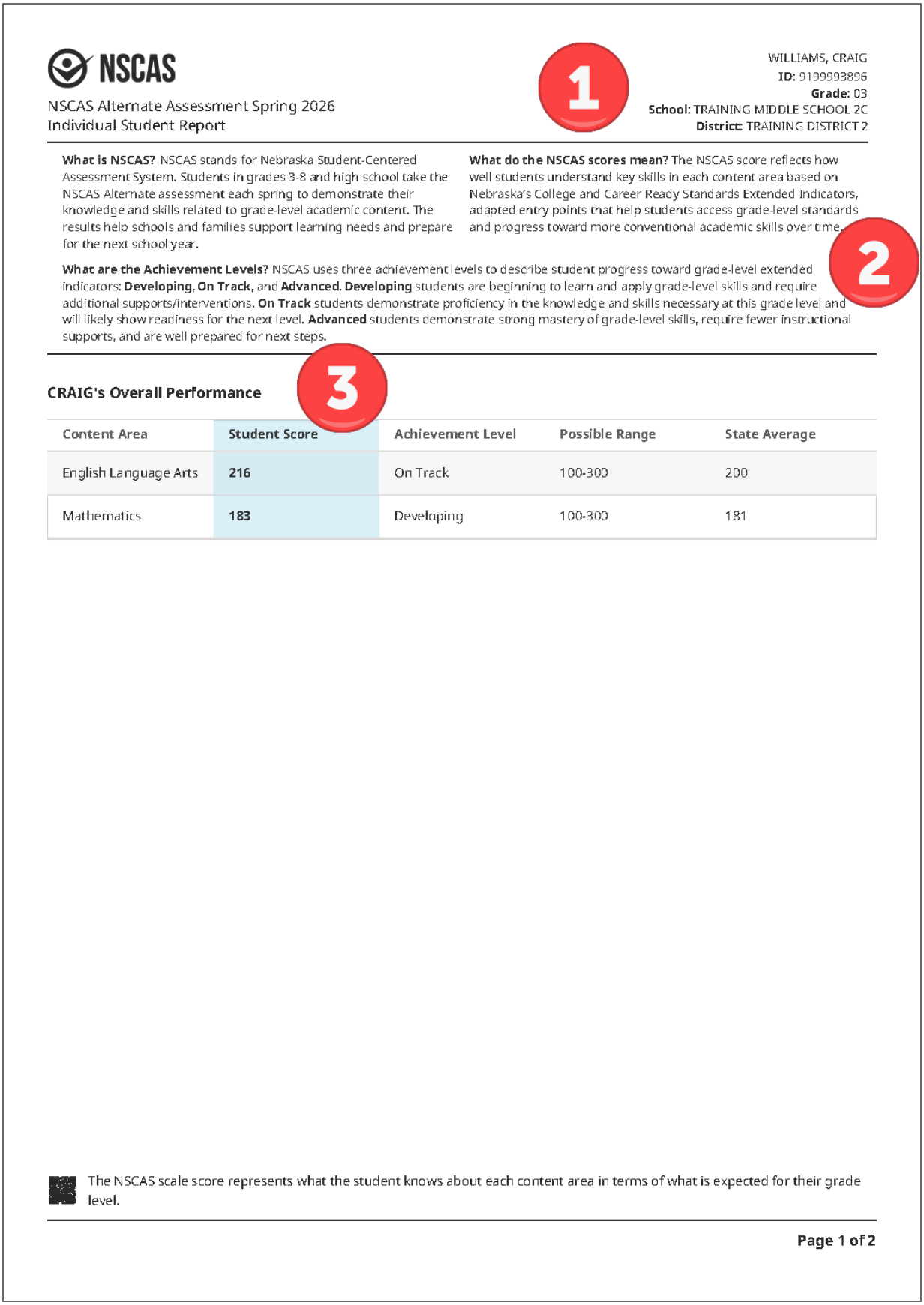
   If your student is missing a score, refer to Common Questions on page 7.
4. **Student's Yearly Growth:** This graph shows the student's growth over time and compares it to the achievement scale. If the student didn't take a test during a particular testing season, there won't be a score for that season. Since NSCAS Alternate is new for Spring 2026, there aren't any previous tests to show on this graph.
5. **Student's Content Area Score:** This section shows the student's score and explains their achievement level. The diagram shows where the student's score falls on the achievement scale. The dot shows the student's score, and the lines on either side show the possible score range.

   If your student is missing a score, refer to Common Questions on page 7.
6. **Reporting Category Scores:** This section shows the student's score in the different reporting categories. Each content area is split into multiple reporting categories. For example, Vocabulary is a reporting category for English Language Arts. NSCAS Science tests do not have reporting categories.

   Reporting category scores provide more insight into the student's achievement in different areas and can help inform teachers on how to address learning needs.

   If your student is missing a score, refer to Common Questions on page 7.

Figure 1: Individual Student Report page 1 sample



NSCAS

NSCAS Alternate Assessment Spring 2026
Individual Student Report

1

WILLIAMS, CRAIG
ID: 9199993896
Grade: 03
School: TRAINING MIDDLE SCHOOL 2C
District: TRAINING DISTRICT 2

What is NSCAS? NSCAS stands for Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System. Students in grades 3-8 and high school take the NSCAS Alternate assessment each spring to demonstrate their knowledge and skills related to grade-level academic content. The results help schools and families support learning needs and prepare for the next school year.

What do the NSCAS scores mean? The NSCAS score reflects how well students understand key skills in each content area based on Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards Extended Indicators, adapted entry points that help students access grade-level standards and progress toward more conventional academic skills over time.

2

What are the Achievement Levels? NSCAS uses three achievement levels to describe student progress toward grade-level extended indicators: **Developing**, **On Track**, and **Advanced**. **Developing** students are beginning to learn and apply grade-level skills and require additional supports/interventions. **On Track** students demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level and will likely show readiness for the next level. **Advanced** students demonstrate strong mastery of grade-level skills, require fewer instructional supports, and are well prepared for next steps.

3

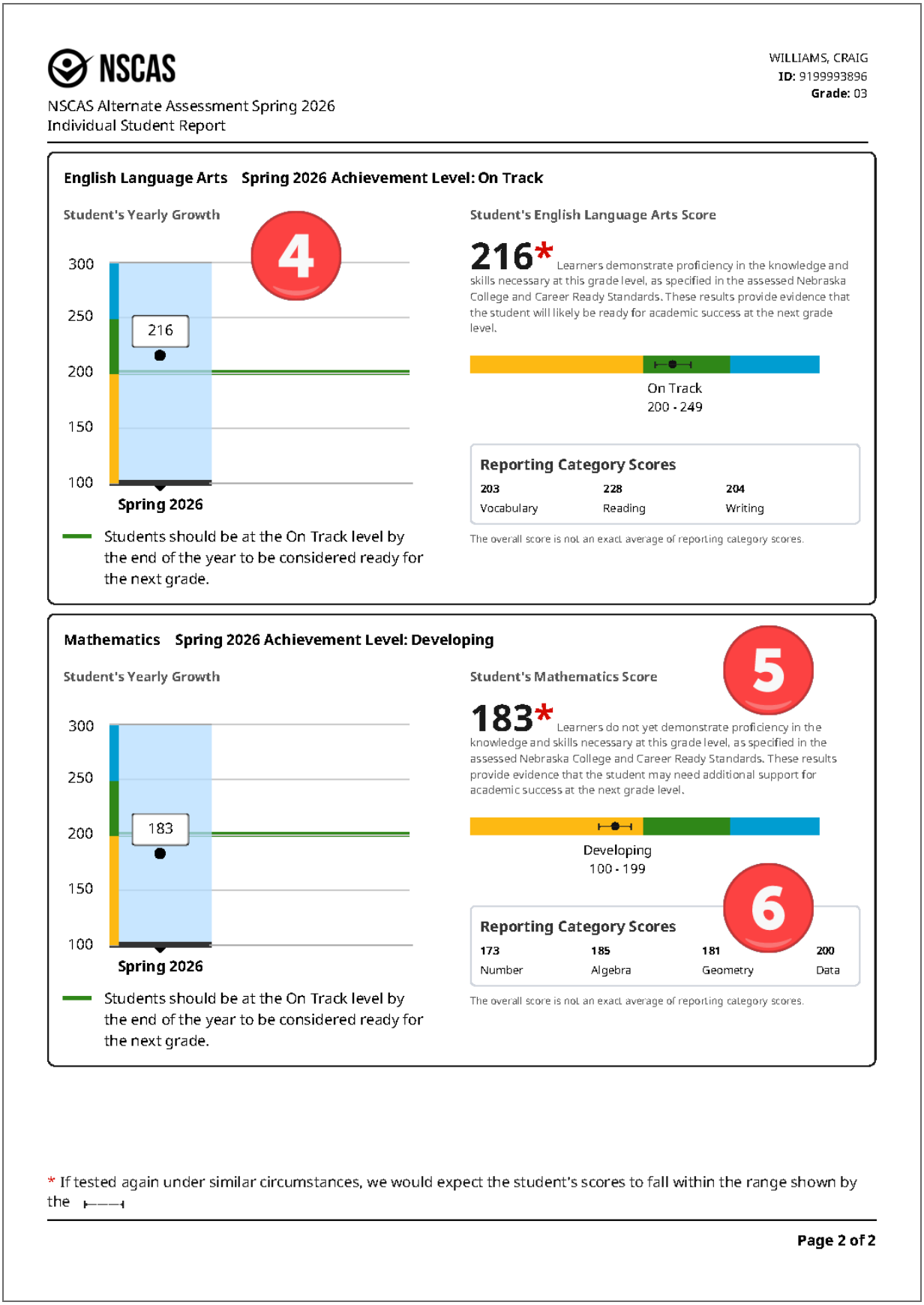
CRAIG's Overall Performance

Content Area	Student Score	Achievement Level	Possible Range	State Average
English Language Arts	**216**	On Track	100-300	200
Mathematics	**183**	Developing	100-300	181

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

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Figure 2: Individual Student Report page 2 sample



NSCAS

NSCAS Alternate Assessment Spring 2026
Individual Student Report

WILLIAMS, CRAIG
ID: 9199993896
Grade: 03

English Language Arts Spring 2026 Achievement Level: On Track

Student's Yearly Growth

4

300
250
216
200
150
100
Spring 2026

Students should be at the On Track level by the end of the year to be considered ready for the next grade.

Student's English Language Arts Score

216* 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.

On Track
200 - 249

Reporting Category Scores

203	228	204
Vocabulary	Reading	Writing

The overall score is not an exact average of reporting category scores.

Mathematics Spring 2026 Achievement Level: Developing

Student's Yearly Growth

300
250
200
183
150
100
Spring 2026

Students should be at the On Track level by the end of the year to be considered ready for the next grade.

Student's Mathematics Score

5

183* 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.

Developing
100 - 199

6

Reporting Category Scores

173	185	181	200
Number	Algebra	Geometry	Data

The overall score is not an exact average of reporting category scores.

* If tested again under similar circumstances, we would expect the student's scores to fall within the range shown by the ⊢—⊣

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Part 3—Common Questions

Question	Answer
How do teachers, district administrators, and state administrators use the scores from the NSCAS Alternate assessments?	Teachers can use the scores to help them Inform instruction, track progress, develop IEP goals, and communicate with families. 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. At the state level, NSCAS Alternate scores can be used to monitor statewide trends, report accountability to contribute to Nebraska's ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) reporting and other federal requirements, and to refine assessment policies, update the extended indicators, and support professional development.
Why am I missing one of the scores for my student's test under Overall Performance?	If "No Score" appears, then the 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 **INV** (student's test was invalid), **PAR** (parent requested that the student not be tested), **STR** (student refused to be tested), and **UTT** (district was unable to test student). If your student had one of these NTCs assigned to their test, they received the lowest scale score and achievement level for that grade and content area.
One of the reporting category scores says NOR instead of a score. What does this mean?	NOR stands for "Student Not Responsive." It means that the student was unable to interact and respond to any item on the test.
How often will my student take NSCAS Alternate assessments?	In the spring, NSCAS Alternate assessments in ELA and Mathematics are administered to students in grades 3–8 and 11, and the NSCAS Alternate Science assessment is administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 11.
Why is my student taking a grade 11 assessment if they are in grade 10 or 12?	Students are expected to participate in the NSCAS Alternate assessment during their third year of high school enrollment, regardless of their assigned grade level. This typically aligns with grade 11, but students may be in grades 10 or 12 depending on their academic path. Cohort identification is based on enrollment history, not grade classification or age.
Are the NSCAS Alternate assessments standardized tests?	Yes, the NSCAS Alternate 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.
What types of questions are on NSCAS Alternate assessments?	The NSCAS Alternate assessments include only multiple choice questions. The Proctor reads each question aloud to the student in a 1:1 setting. To review practice tests, visit https://connection.nwea.org/s/nebraska-practice-tests
Where do I find my student's report if I have not already received it?	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 the student's ISR, contact the student's school.