

# Individual Student Report

## Interpretive Guide for Parents

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**2023–2024 NSCAS Growth English Language Arts,  
Mathematics, and NSCAS General Science**

## Contributors

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

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The assessment contractor is NWEA.

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# Part 1—Introduction

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## About NSCAS Growth and NSCAS Science assessments

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), pronounced “EN-skass,” is a state-wide assessment. These assessments measure student performance against Nebraska's content area standards. In fall and winter, your student’s school may choose to give students in grades 3–8 the NSCAS Growth assessments in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. In the spring, all students in grades 3–8 take the NSCAS Growth assessments in ELA and Mathematics, and students in grade 5 or 8 take the NSCAS Science assessment.

When 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). This guide provides a sample ISR 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 link at <https://connection.nwea.org/s/nebraska>. If you have additional questions, please contact your student's teacher or school.

## Student achievement reporting

Students’ achievement on the NSCAS Growth assessments is reported as a scale score and achievement level.

Scale scores range from 2220–2890 for ELA, 1000–1550 for Math, and 3000–3250 for 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:** 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.
- **Advanced:** 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

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The Individual Student Report, or ISR, shows a student's achievement on the NSCAS Growth ELA and Mathematics tests, and NSCAS Science tests for students in grades 5 and 8.

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

## 1. Identification Information

Student identification information is provided at the top-right corner of the report. This includes the student's name, state student identification number, and grade, and may include the district and school in which the student was enrolled at the time they were tested.

## 2. Report Introduction

This section has a description of the NSCAS Growth and NSCAS Science assessments. It also explains what the scores and achievement levels mean.

## 3. Overall Performance

The student's score, possible score range, and the school, district, and state averages for each content area is provided.

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.

If your student is missing a score, refer to [Common Questions](#) on page 7.

## 4. Student's School Year Growth

For each content area, the student's growth during the current school year is graphed and compared to the achievement scale. Testing in English Language Arts and Mathematics is optional for fall and winter, and NSCAS Science is only administered in the spring for grades 5 and 8, so if the student has not taken a test in a particular test season, no score appears on the graph for that season.

## 5. Content Area Score

The content area score diagram shows where the student's score falls on the achievement scale. The dot indicates 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

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.

The NSCAS Science tests do not have reporting category scores.

Figure 1: Individual Student Report page 1

**What is NSCAS?**

NSCAS stands for Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System. Students may take this test three times a year - in fall, winter, and spring.

**What do the NSCAS scores mean?**

The NSCAS scores show how well students are meeting grade-level expectations, how each student is progressing, and where a student may need more support.

**What are the Achievement Levels?**

Test scores fall into one of three broad Achievement Levels as defined by the State: Developing, On Track, and Advanced. **Developing** means students have an opportunity for growth in their grade-level targets. **On Track** is the grade-level target for all student achievement by the end of the grade. **Advanced** means advanced proficiency based on Nebraska's standards.

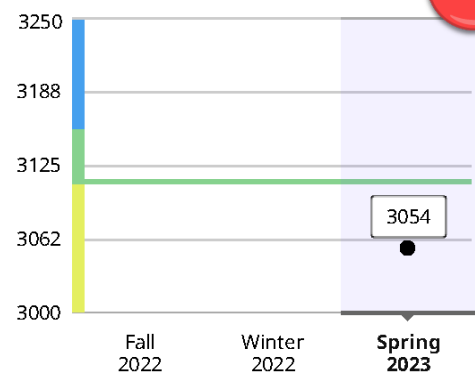
**ALICIA PAULSON's Overall Performance**

Content Area	Student Score	Possible Range	School Average	District Average	State Average
Science	3054	3000-3250	3136	3056	3035
English Language Arts	2631	2220-2840	2389	2415	2409
Mathematics	1344	1000-1470	1155	1168	1162

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

**Science** Spring 2023 Achievement Level: Developing

**Student's School Year Growth**



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

**Student's Science Score**



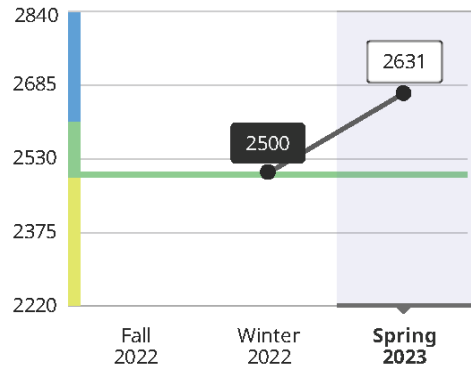
**Developing:** Learners do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student may need additional support for academic success at the next grade level.

Figure 2: Individual Student Report page 2



English Language Arts Spring 2023 Achievement Level: Advanced

Student's School Year Growth



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



**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.

Reporting Category Scores

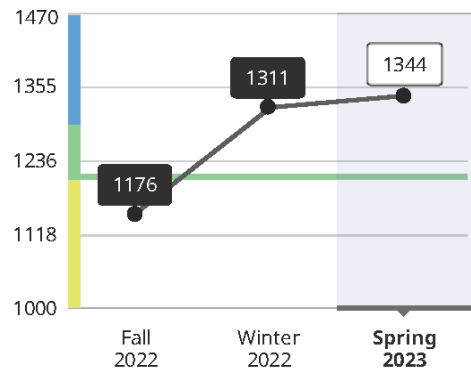
2614 Reading Prose and Poetry	2608 Reading Informational Text	2642 Vocabulary	2616 Writing
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The overall score is not an exact average of reporting category scores.



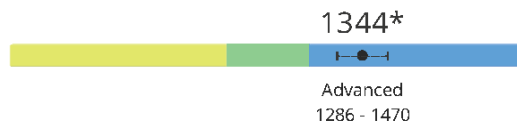
Mathematics Spring 2023 Achievement Level: Advanced

Student's School Year Growth



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



**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.

Reporting Category Scores

1312 Number	1314 Ratios and Proportions	1273 Algebra	1310 Geometry	1320 Data
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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 the range shown by the

## Part 3—Common Questions

Question	Answer
<b>How do teachers, district administrators, and state administrators use the scores from the NSCAS Growth and NSCAS Science 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>Why am I missing one of the scores for my student's test under Overall Performance?</b>	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 <b>INV</b> (student’s test was invalid), <b>PAR</b> (parent requested that the student not be tested), <b>STR</b> (student refused to be tested), and <b>UTT</b> (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.
<b>One of the reporting category scores says NEI instead of a score. What does this mean?</b>	NEI stands for “not enough items.” It means that the student completed enough of the test to get an overall score, but did not answer enough items in this reporting category to receive a reporting category score.
<b>How often will my student take NSCAS Growth and NSCAS Science assessments?</b>	In the spring, NSCAS Growth assessments in ELA and Mathematics are administered to students in grades 3–8, and the NSCAS Science assessment is administered to students in grades 5 and 8. Districts can also choose whether to administer the NSCAS Growth assessments in ELA and Mathematics in the fall and winter.
<b>Are the NSCAS Growth and NSCAS Science assessments standardized tests?</b>	Yes, the NSCAS Growth and NSCAS Science 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 Growth and NSCAS Science assessments?</b>	The NSCAS Growth and NSCAS Science assessments include multiple choice, drag-and-drop, and other types of questions. To review sample item types, visit <a href="https://connection.nwea.org/s/nebraska-practice-tests">https://connection.nwea.org/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 the student's ISR, contact the student's school.