NSCAS NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

nwea acacia™

NSCAS System and Technology Guide

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

August 2025

Contributors

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

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Part 1—IT staff readiness checklist

	Action Item	Timeline	Resource
☐	Review system maintenance windows	Yearly	System Maintenance Windows on NWEA Connection
☐	Verify network meets requirements and conduct network diagnostics	Can begin immediately	Network requirements on page 9
☐	Verify testing devices meet minimum hardware and software requirements	Can begin immediately	System requirements on page 7 **Note**: Some requirements have been updated for 2025–2026
☐	Uninstall the previous year's version of the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser on Macs and PCs	3–4 weeks before testing begins	The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser on page 15
☐	Install the correct version of the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser on Macs and PCs. Chromebooks and iOS devices update automatically. Update the iOS app from the App Store if automatic updates are disabled	3–4 weeks before testing begins	The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser on page 15 **Note**: The testing browser has been updated for 2025–2026
☐	Take an Item Type Sampler (practice test) from each testing device to confirm device readiness	3–4 weeks before testing begins	Launch the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser and select the Item Type Sampler link
☐	Windows: Disable Fast User Switching	2–3 weeks before testing begins	Disable Fast User Switching in Windows on page 19
☐	Ensure that all applications not identified as necessary by the technology staff are uninstalled from testing computers Shut down any automatic updates to the operating system during the testing window	1–2 weeks before testing begins	
☐	Ensure staff availability to assist with technical issues during the testing window	Ongoing throughout the testing window	

Part 2—Online readiness tools

NWEA has online readiness tools to help schools plan for testing. The Online Readiness Tools website, available at https://securebrowser.state.nwea.org, has the following tools available:

- System requirements check
- Secure browser download
- System check test to determine the maximum number of simultaneous testers your network can accommodate
- School capacity calculator

System requirements check

Verify that all devices meet the system requirements listed in the System Requirements guide. The system requirements are also available at Requirements for testing online on page 7.

Secure browser download

Follow the links to download the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser for each supported platform.

School capacity calculator

Use the school capacity calculator to determine the following:

- Maximum student capacity
- Minimum required computers
- Minimum test sessions per day
- Minimum required days of testing

Maximum student capacity

Enter the number of computers, the number of test sessions available per day, and the number of days allowed for testing. Select the **Calculate** button to find the maximum student capacity for testing.

Minimum required computers

Enter the total number of student testing administrations, the number of test sessions available per day, and the number of days allowed for testing. Select the **Calculate** button to find the minimum number of computers required for testing.

Minimum test sessions per day

Enter the number of computers, the total number of student testing administrations, and the number of days allowed for testing. Select the **Calculate** button to find the minimum number of sessions needed each day for testing.

Minimum required days of testing

Enter the number of computers, the total number of student testing administrations, and the number of sessions available per day. Select the **Calculate** button to find the minimum number of days needed for testing.

System check test

Run this network speed test to determine the maximum number of simultaneous testers your network can handle.

Local bandwidth will vary with usage and traffic levels, so run it during peak time, and during times when usage is similar to usage on a testing day. Longer tests and tests with larger items, such as items that include animations and interactivity, may require more bandwidth.

Part 3—System requirements

Requirements for testing online

You can verify that you have the most up-to-date system requirements throughout the year at https://securebrowser.state.nwea.org/.

New minimum requirements for 2025–2026 are highlighted in Table 1: System Requirements for Online Testing below.

Table 1: System Requirements for Online Testing

Category	Requirements
Devices	**Desktop**: Windows, macOS **Laptop**: Windows, Chromebook®, macOS **Tablets**: iPad®, Windows
Operating systems	**Windows 10**: Version 22H2 **Windows 11**: Versions 22H2, 23H2, and 24H2 **Windows 10S, 11S, 11SE**: Not supported **ChromeOS**: Release channel only; version 131 or higher **macOS**: 13 or higher **iOS**: 17 or higher
Processors	**Windows**: Intel® compatible (32-bit or 64-bit) **ChromeOS**: Any **macOS**: Any **iOS**: Any
Memory	**Windows**: 2 GB (4 GB recommended) **ChromeOS**: 2 GB (4 GB recommended) **macOS**: 2 GB (4 GB recommended) **iOS**: 1 GB (2 GB recommended)
Minimum screen size	9.5 inches for all devices
Minimum screen resolution	1024 x 768 for all devices
Keyboard	Physical keyboard recommended for assessments with essays. Wired keyboard and mouse are strongly recommended.
Headphones	Recommended for assessments with audio or for students with TTS accommodations. **Sound Mode**: Stereo Earpiece: Double Driver Unit Size: 32 mm **Frequency Response**: 20 – 20000 Hz **Impedance**: 32 ohms

Acacia management and reporting system requirements

The management and reporting insights platform, known as Acacia Manage, is supported on the latest versions of the following browsers:

- Google Chrome™
- Mozilla® Firefox®
- Mozilla Firefox LTS
- Microsoft® Edge™
- Safari®
- Safari on iPad®

The website is optimally viewed using a 1280 x 1024-pixel screen resolution. System functionality and screens may display, operate, or appear differently in different browsers and operating systems.

Part 4—Network requirements

Network connections

A stable, high-speed wired or wireless internet connection is required for online testing. The response time for each assessment depends on the reliability and speed of the school's internet connection.

Network configurations should include all the elements noted below:

- Configure the content filters, firewalls, and proxy servers to allow traffic on the protocols and to the servers listed in Network configurations on page 12.
- Set session timeouts on proxy servers and other devices to at least 35 minutes. This helps limit interruptions during testing.
- Disable content caching.
- Open or allowlist the URLs in URL allowlist on page 13 on any devices that perform traffic shaping, packet prioritization, or Quality of Service. This guarantees the highest level of performance.

Verify the network settings so the online testing applications will work properly. Contact your network administrator or technology specialist with any questions about your network configurations.

Note: If the internet connection is not working properly, students can complete their tests at a later time. All submitted answers are saved. When the student resumes testing, they will continue where they left off.

Bandwidth

Bandwidth is the measure of the signaling capacity of a network. Bandwidth performance is affected on the internal local area network (LAN) traffic and internet traffic from the router. Regardless of hardware or network topology, analyze the LAN to determine the potential for traffic bottlenecks. Table 2: Testing Bandwidth by Number of Students Testing Concurrently below details the estimated average bandwidth used by the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser.

Table 2: Testing Bandwidth by Number of Students Testing Concurrently

Number of students testing concurrently	Average estimated bandwidth used for testing
1	20 kbps
50	250–750 kbps (0.25–0.75 Mbps per second)
100	500–1500 kbps (0.5–1.5 Mbps)

Bandwidth varies during a student's testing experience. Some test items contain low-bandwidth content, while others contain higher-bandwidth content, such as text-to-speech. To account for this, the estimated average values in the column in Table 2: Testing Bandwidth by Number of Students Testing Concurrently on the previous page are based on averages from multiple tests and test subjects.

Note: When users launch the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser, bandwidth usage temporarily increases as the browser runs system, configuration, and network checks. The above guidelines apply after the checks are complete.

Determining bandwidth requirements

To determine the necessary school bandwidth requirements, complete the following steps:

1. Run online readiness checks available at the NWEA Online Readiness Tools website to determine how many students can reasonably test concurrently. Refer to Part 2—Online readiness tools on page 5 for instructions.
2. Test and forecast whether your infrastructure has the capacity to accommodate needs:
    a. Determine the average daily volume of internet traffic.
    b. Determine the desired response time for non-test related applications that require internet connectivity and will operate during testing.
    c. Determine the number of students who will test concurrently.

Most school bandwidth levels are sufficient for wired networks. LAN performance can be hindered if hubs are used instead of switches. The most common bottleneck is the internet service provider's (ISP) router connection. For wireless network guidelines, refer to Wireless access points on the next page.

NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser network installation

It is recommended that schools install the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser locally on each individual testing workstation. However, the browser can also be installed on a network or a shared drive, and then testing workstations can run the browser from this drive. If your school installs the browser on a network location, be aware of the following risks:

- There may be competition for network bandwidth, resulting in slower network speeds.
- The network or shared disk drive may also be subject to resource competition. Multiple clients reading from the network drive can reduce overall browser performance.
- Due to the sensitivity of test-related data, encryption is always required. It is highly recommended that wireless traffic use WPA2/AES data encryption. Because encryption and decryption are part of the data exchange process, there may be a slight decrease in the overall network speed.

Wireless access points

It is recommended that each school maintain a ratio of wireless systems to wireless access points (WAPs) of no more than 20 to 1. Typically, test performance begins to deteriorate after this threshold is surpassed. In some instances, older WAPs have a lower capacity, which may lead to a slower rate and may cause performance degradation when more than 15 devices are concurrently attached.

Recommended workstations per wireless connection

The optimal (or maximum) number of student workstations (computers and tablets) supported by a single wireless connection depends on the type of networking standard used for the connection.

The two most common networking standards are 802.11g (54 Mbps) and the newer and faster standard, 802.11n (300 Mbps).

Both the access point, which emits the wireless signal, and the computer's wireless card, which receives the signal, will use one of these two standards. The recommendations in Table 3: Workstations Per Wireless Connection below are based on the standard in use.

Table 3: Workstations Per Wireless Connection

Wireless Card	802.11g Access Point	802.11n Access Point
802.11g wireless cards	20 workstations or devices	40 workstations or devices
802.11n wireless cards	20 workstations or devices	40 workstations or devices

Note: Refer to the manufacturer's WAP documentation for specific recommendations and guidelines.

Network diagnostic tools

NWEA provides tools to help determine a network's level of readiness for testing. Refer to Part 2—Online readiness tools on page 5 for more information.

If further diagnostic testing is needed, the following system-specific tools can help identify the network bottlenecks and problems.

Windows-specific tools

- **PRTG Traffic Grapher** (http://www.paessler.com/prtg/) is Windows software that monitors bandwidth usage and other network parameters via simple network management protocol (SNMP). It also contains a built-in packet sniffer. A freeware version is available.
- **PathPing** is a network utility included in the Windows operating system. It combines the functionality of Ping with a traceroute function (Windows filename: tracert). This provides details of the path between two hosts and Ping-like statistics for each node in the path based on samples taken over a time period.

macOS-specific tools

Use the **Network Utility** application, which is built in to macOS software.

Multi-platform tools

Wireshark (http://www.wireshark.org/) is a network protocol analyzer that has a large feature set and runs on most computing platforms including Windows, OS X, Linux, and UNIX.

TCPDump (https://www.tcpdump.org/index.html#latest-releases) is a common packet sniffer that runs under the command line and is compatible with UNIX, Linux, and macOS. It allows the user to intercept and display data packets being transmitted or received over a network.

Ping, **NSLookup**, **Netstat**, and **Traceroute** (in Windows: `tracert`) is a set of standard UNIX network utilities. Versions of these utilities are included in UNIX, Linux, Windows, and macOS.

Iperf (https://software.es.net/iperf/) is a tool that measures maximum TCP bandwidth. This allows the user to tune various parameters and user datagram protocol (UDP) characteristics. Iperf reports bandwidth, delay jitter and datagram loss.

Network configurations

Protocols

All communication within the network takes place over the following internet port and protocol combinations. Ensure that the following ports are open for these systems.

Table 4: Ports and Protocols

Port and Protocol	Purpose
80 TCP	HTTP (initial connection only)
443 TCP	HTTPS (secure connection)

MIME types

Allow downloading and uploading of the following MIME types:

- Application/json
- Application/octet-stream
- Image/gif
- Image/png
- Image/svg+xml
- Multipart/form-data
- Printer/prn
- Text/html
- Text/xml
- Video/mp4

URL allowlist

Allow the following URLs for administration and testing to be accessed through the firewall:

- http://*.nwea.org
- https://*.nwea.org
- http://*.mapnwea.org
- https://*.mapnwea.org
- http://*.caltesting.org/
- https://*.caltesting.org/
- http://*.ets.org/
- https://*.ets.org/

Domain name resolutions (DNS)

All system URLs must be resolvable by the client hosts attempting to connect to the online testing system.

The client workstations must convert friendly names (URLs) to their corresponding IP address by requesting the information from the DNS server.

Email server

Make sure the following email addresses are allowlisted to ensure delivery.

- @nwea.org
- @hmhco.com

Firewalls, content filters, and proxy servers

Configure firewalls, content filters, and proxy servers to allow traffic on the protocols listed above to the servers running the applications. Set any session timeouts on proxy servers and other devices to values greater than the average time it takes a student to complete a test.

Note: For locations using SSL filtering, be aware that the SSL certificate for online testing uses `*.state.nwea.org` as the Common Name (CN).

QoS traffic shaping

If the client network uses any devices that perform traffic shaping, packet prioritization, or Quality of Service (QoS), then the network should give the URLs or IP addresses in URL allowlist above a high level of priority. This ensures the best performance.

Virtualization guidelines

Virtualization solutions such as nComputing, VMWare, Citrix XenDesktop, and many others can be successfully used for testing with the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser. However, virtual environments can potentially impact both test security as well as the student testing experience. It is, therefore, the responsibility of district and school technology staff to ensure security and performance are maintained within virtualized environments.

Use the resources in this section to help compare the security and performance in the virtualized environment to the security and performance in a standard, non-virtualized OS installation.

Security

Test security is critical. The student testing experience must be adequately controlled to prevent students from gaining access to information, communications, or other resources that could help them during the test. Additionally, test content and student responses must be secured across networks to protect against the potential exposure of test content. The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser has significant security features that lock down the desktop to protect the integrity of the testing process.

Virtualization solutions should meet all of the following criteria for security standards:

- From login to submit, the desktop is secure, and the system does not allow access to any application, content, or other service beyond the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser.
- From login to submit, the system does not allow any screen captures, printing, saving, or other electronic replication or duplication of the display screen or content of the test. This includes the viewing of test materials by district and school staff.

Performance comparability

The system performance of the virtual environment must be comparable to a non-virtual environment. Verify that performance using the virtualized environment will not negatively impact the student's ability to test.

Ensure that virtualization solutions meet all of the following criteria to mimic a true testing environment:

- While logging in concurrently with the same number of clients that will be used during normal testing, no error messages are received.
- The first test item (question) of the practice test loads fully at the same speed as it does in a non-virtualized environment.
- While interacting with all practice test items, there are no noticeable lags or delays as compared to a non-virtualized environment.
- The text-to-speech (TTS) feature reads test questions aloud for the student. Be sure to use the tutorials and practice tests for verifying TTS functionality.
- When the practice test is submitted (completed normally), no error message is received, and the system responds at the same speed as compared to a non-virtualized environment.

Part 5—The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser

About the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser

All students must use the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser to access the online assessments. The secure browser prevents students from copying test information and accessing other apps, programs, or websites.

You must have administrative rights on each device to install the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser.

Note: The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser is not the same as the NWEA Secure Testing Browser used for MAP Growth testing. If you also use MAP Growth, you do not need to uninstall that browser.

Windows installation and management

This section provides instructions for installing, managing, and uninstalling the Windows NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser on computers with supported Windows operating systems.

Note: All Windows installations require Read and Execute permissions to the program folder and Read and Write permissions to the user's home directory.

Important for 2025–2026: The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser has been updated. The previous version must be uninstalled before installing the new version. Refer to Uninstall the browser on page 19 for instructions.

Download the installer

To download the installer:

1. Open a web browser and navigate to the Online Readiness Tools page.
2. Select the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser MSI file to download and save the file.

Install the MSI package

Using an installation script

Note: This section only applies to system and network administrators with the appropriate privileges.

Network administrators can install the Windows NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser using an installation script executed by an administrator account on the machine. The script is designed to run without any human interaction (quiet switch).

You can use these scripts to install the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser in the default directory (C:\Program Files for 32-bit, C:\Program Files (x86) for 64-bit) or any target directory of choice. Uninstallation can also be scripted.

Below are scripts for installation and uninstallation. Both require the script to have visibility to the MSI installation file and can only be executed by an administrator account on the machine. This is a Windows-based restriction, not a NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser restriction. The `msiexec` service that installs MSI files is used by administrators only.

Script conventions

`<Source>` = Complete path to the Secure Browser MSI installation file, including the MSI installation file name

Example: `C:\MSI\NWEAStateSolutions.msi`

`<Target>` = Complete path to the location where the application should be installed, if the default location (C:\Program Files) is not preferred.

Example: `C:\MSI\Installation_Dir`

Note: The target install directory does not have to be created in advance.

Installation script

```
msiexec /qb /i <Source> /quiet INSTALLDIR=<Target>
STATEPARTNERCODE=NSCAS
```

Example: `msiexec /qb /i C:\MSI\ NWEAStateSolutions.msi /quiet INSTALLDIR=C:\MSI\Browser_Install STATEPARTNERCODE=NSCAS`

Note: This configuration is only for the NSCAS assessments. For other state assessments, contact your district or NWEA for the version of this guide for your state.

Uninstallation script

```
msiexec /x <Source> /quiet
```

Example: `msiexec /X C:\MSI\NWEAStateSolutions.msi /quiet`

Using mobile device management (MDM) software

The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser may be installed and managed using third-party device management software. There are many options including Microsoft Intune.

The example steps below are for Microsoft Intune. If you use a different MDM software, refer to your support documentation or contact the MDM software's support team for further assistance if necessary.

1. In Intune, go to **Mobile Apps** > **Apps**.
2. Select **Add**.
3. In the **Select app type** area, select **Line-of-business** app, then choose **Select**.
4. Choose **Select app package file** to upload the MSI file.
5. The app details will be displayed. Select **OK** to add the app.
6. Select **App Information**.
7. In the **Command line arguments** field, enter the following: `/qb STATEPARTNERCODE=NSCAS`

   > **Note**: This configuration is only for the NSCAS assessments. For other state assessments, contact your district or NWEA for the version of this guide for your state.

8. Set the other information fields as desired.
9. Assign other settings as desired, then select **Create** to add the app to Intune.

Install via network

You can install the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser to all computers on a network by copying browser files from the network to individual computers or through third-party programs to run the installers. This section describes how to install the application using a network. First, you should install the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser to a shared drive, then install it from the network directory to the client computers.

1. Install the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser onto the server:
   a. Map the network directory to where the application was installed previously on each client machine.
   b. In the network location where the application is installed, create a shortcut by right clicking the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser icon and selecting **Create Shortcut**.

      Optional: Rename the new shortcut. This becomes the shortcut link name used in step 4.

   c. In the properties menu of the shortcut, change the path to use the mapped path as if on the client machine.

d. Add the following command to each user (computer) profile, which will execute upon login through the user group login script:

```
COPY "<X> \ [ABC].lnk" "%USERPROFILE%\Desktop"
```

Note: <X> refers to the shared directory from which the application will be run. [ABC] refers the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser file name. The script will need to reference the correct directory.

2. Copy the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser from the network to the client computers:

   a. Identify the network directory where the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser file was saved. These instructions will refer to that network directory as <X>.

   b. Identify the target directory on the local user computers where the files will be copied.

   Notes:

   - These instructions will refer to that directory as <Y>.
   - User must have write access to <Y>.
   - Restricted users will have access only to certain folders on the local computers.

   c. Create a shortcut in the network directory by right clicking the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser icon and selecting **Create Shortcut**.

   d. Rename the new shortcut.

   Note: In the shortcut properties, the **Target** and **Start In** attributes will show the <X> network installation directory.

   e. In both the **Target** and **Start In** attributes windows, change the shortcut properties to the <Y> directory instead of the default <X> network directory on the local computers.

   Note: The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser shortcut will point to the designated installation directory.

   f. Add the following lines to the login script for each user, replacing the actual local and source network directories for <Y> and <X>.

```
IF EXIST <Y> GOTO DONE

XCOPY "<X>" "<Y>" /E /I

COPY "<Y>\ [ABC].lnk" "%USERPROFILE%\Desktop"

:DONE EXIT
```

Install manually

To install the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser on Windows devices:

1. Launch the installer.
2. Follow the instructions in the installation wizard.
3. When prompted for the **Partner Code**, enter `NSCAS` (not case-sensitive).

   > **Note**: This configuration is only for the NSCAS assessments. For other state assessments, contact your district or NWEA for the version of this guide for your state.

4. Once the installation is complete, click **Finish**.
5. Launch the application by double-clicking the icon on the desktop or via the **Start** menu.

Uninstall the browser

To manually uninstall the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser:

1. Right-click the **Start** button in the taskbar, open **Settings**, then select **Apps & Features**.
2. On the **Apps & Features** page, under **Apps & Features**, use the **Search this list** search box or scroll down to find the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser.
3. Select the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser, then select **Uninstall** to open the **Uninstall Wizard**.
4. Select **Next**, then **Yes**, then select **OK** to complete the uninstall process.

Disable Fast User Switching in Windows

Fast User Switching allows multiple users to be logged in concurrently. Disabling this function is strongly encouraged, as it allows a student to access multiple user accounts from a single computer.

Method 1: Group Policy editor

To disable Fast User Switching via Group Policy:

1. Right-click the **Start** button in the taskbar, then click **Run**.
2. In the **Search** text box, type `gpedit.msc` and select **OK**.
3. In the **Local Group Policy Editor** window, open **Administrative Templates** under **Local Computer Policy** > **Computer Configuration, System, and Logon**.
4. Select **Hide entry points for Fast User Switching**.
5. Select the **Edit policy setting** link in the left pane.
6. In the **Hide entry points for Fast User Switching** window, set **Hide entry points** to **Enabled**.

7. Select **OK** to save the setting and close the **Fast User Switching properties** window.
8. Close the **Local Group Policy Editor** window.

Method 2: Edit the registry

To disable Fast User Switching via the registry:

1. Right-click the **Start** button in the taskbar, then choose **Run**.
2. In the **Search** text box, type `regedit.exe` and select **OK**.
3. In the **Registry Editor** window, open **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE, SOFTWARE, Microsoft, Windows, CurrentVersion, Policies, and Open System**.
4. Right-click in the left pane of the **System** folder.
5. Select **DWORD (32-bit)** value under **New** > **Key**.
6. In the **New Value #1** text box, type `HideFastUserSwitching` and press **Enter**.
7. In the **Edit DWORD (32-bit) Value** window, Type `1` into the **Value data** text box and select **OK**.
8. Close the **Registry Editor** window.

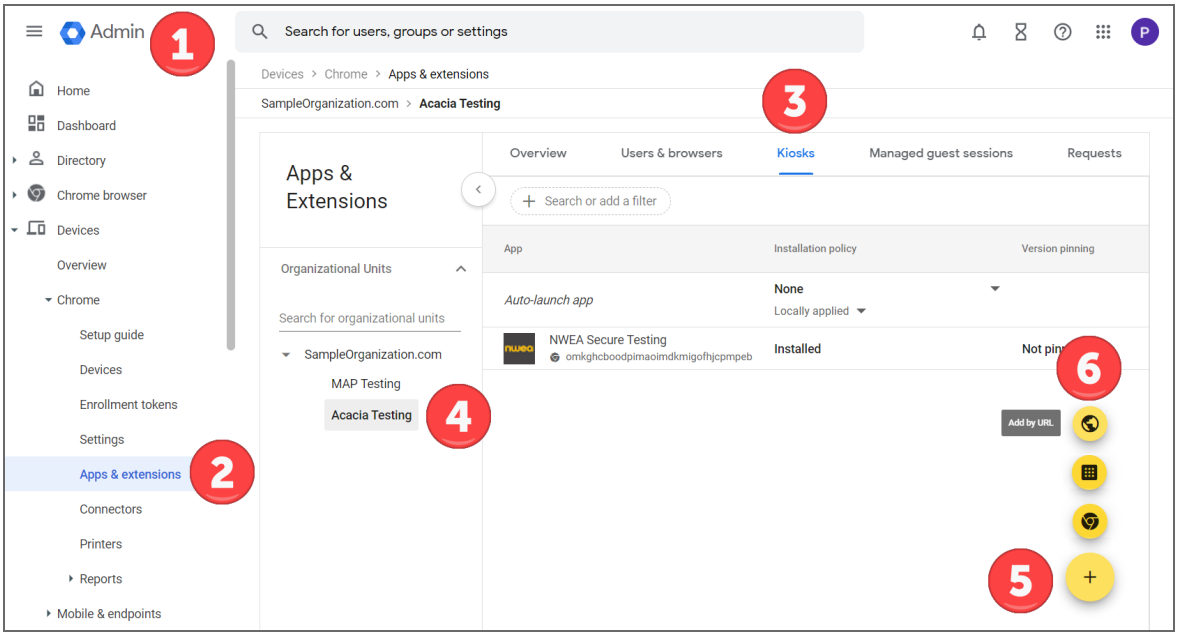
Chromebook installation and management

This section walks you through how to install the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser Chrome Progressive Web App (PWA) and the required Chrome extension. Chromebooks must be managed centrally through the Google admin console. For a video walk-through, visit the PWA Installation video on NWEA.org.

Install the PWA

To install the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser PWA:

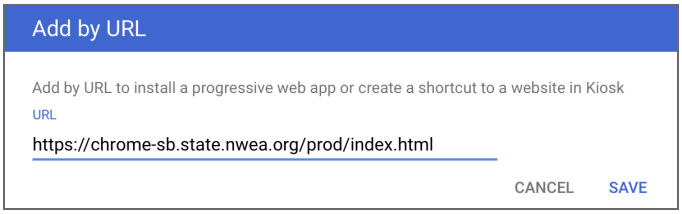
1. Open the Google Admin console.
2. In the navigation pane, select **Devices** > **Chrome** > **Apps & Extensions**.
3. In the **Apps & Extensions** pane, select the **Kiosks** tab.
4. In the **Organizational Units** list, select the organizational unit to install the PWA to.
5. In the bottom right, select the **+** button to see a list of options.
6. Select **Add by URL**.



7. In the **Add by URL** alert window, enter:

   https://chrome-sb.state.nwea.org/prod/index.html

8. Select **Save**.

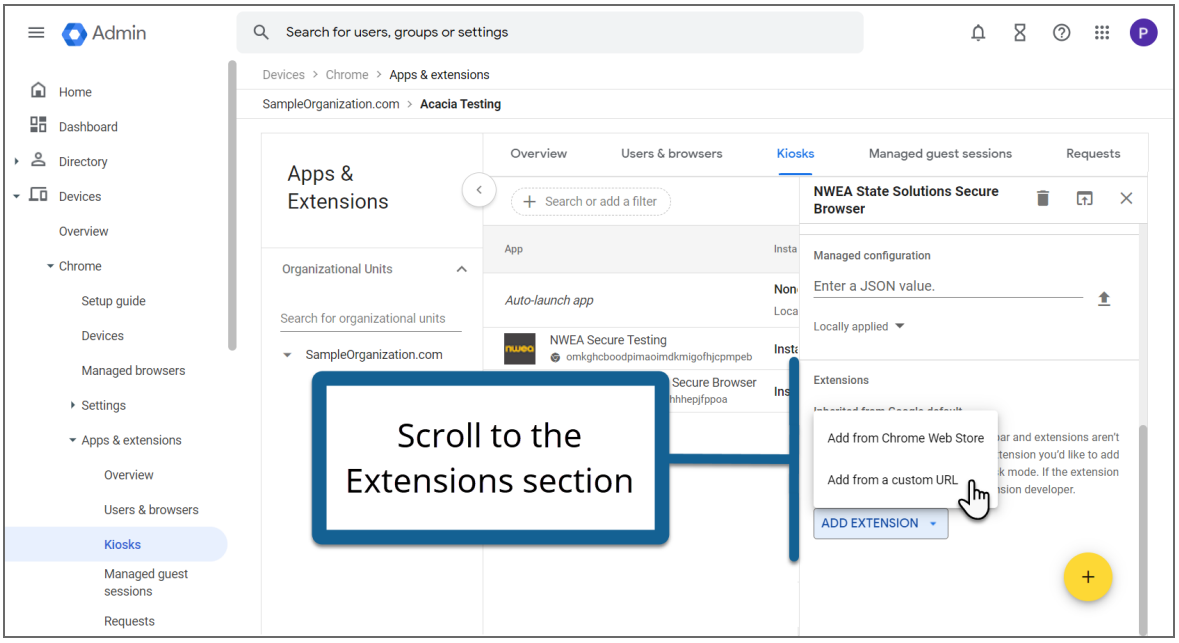


9. A permissions window appears. Select **Agree** to give the required permissions to the PWA.

Configure the PWA and required extension

To configure the PWA and install the required extension:

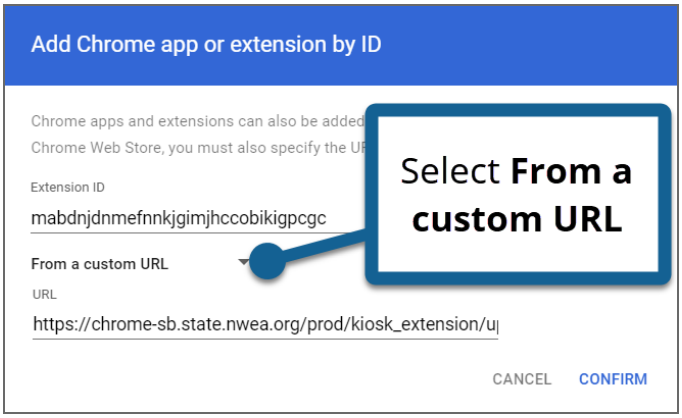
1. The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser app should appear in the list of installed apps, and a pane containing the configuration options for the app should appear. If the pane does not appear or you have closed it, select the app to open the pane.
2. In the **Extensions** section, select **Add Extension** > **Add from a custom URL**.



3. In the **Add Chrome app or extension by ID** alert window, open the menu and select **From a custom URL**.
4. Enter the following in the fields:

   Extension ID: `mabdnjdnmefnnkjgimjhccobikigpcgc`

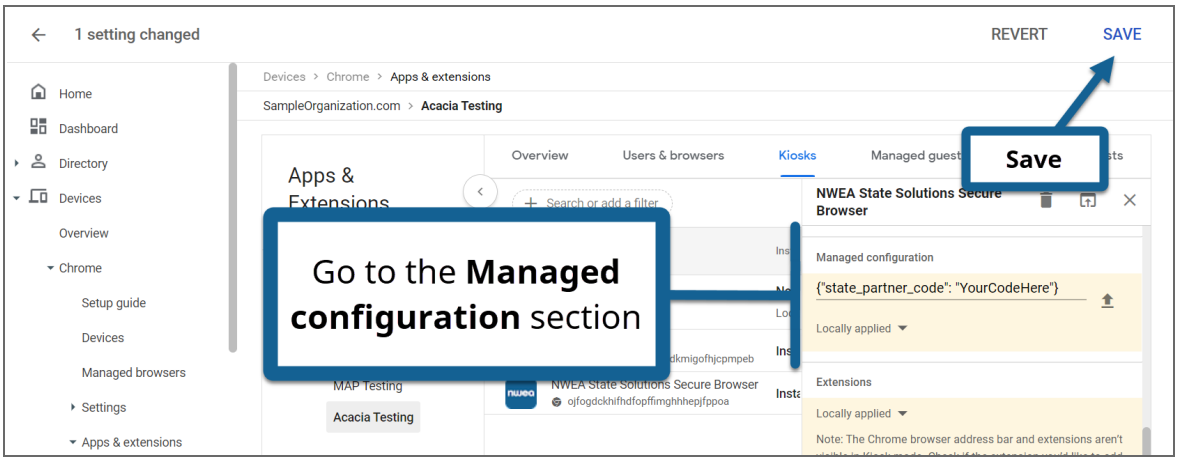
   URL: `https://chrome-sb.state.nwea.org/prod/kiosk_extension/updates.xml`
5. Select **Confirm**.



6. In the **Managed Configuration** section, enter the following in the field labeled **Enter a JSON value**:

   ```
   {"state_partner_code": "NSCAS"}
   ```

7. Select **Save** in the upper right.



The PWA and its required extension are now installed and configured. The new NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser should appear in the list of kiosk apps on the Chromebook.

Disable the Floating Accessibility Menu

Chrome kiosk apps can optionally display a menu with various accessibility features such as ChromeVox, magnifiers, and color contrast. When enabled, this menu appears in the bottom right corner of the screen. This menu is disabled by default. However, if it has become enabled, follow these steps to disable it:

1. Open the Google Admin console.
2. In the navigation pane, select **Devices** > **Chrome** > **Settings**.
3. In the **Organizational Units** list, select the organizational unit to which the PWA is deployed.
4. Select the **Device settings** tab.
5. In the **Kiosk accessibility** section, select the **Kiosk floating accessibility** menu option.

6. Set the **Configuration** menu to **Do not show the floating accessibility menu in kiosk mode**, then select **Save**.

Disable ChromeVox

ChromeVox is the built-in screen reader for Chrome OS. Students may have turned this feature on while using the Chromebook for instructional purposes. ChromeVox reads everything on the screen to the user, providing an accommodation that students should not have during testing. Visit http://www.chromevox.com/ for more information about ChromeVox.

To disable ChromeVox:

1. Use the keyboard shortcut **Ctrl + Alt + Z** to toggle ChromeVox.

Or:

1. Go to **Settings**.
2. In the **Accessibility** section, under **Text-to-Speech**, set the screen reader to off.

Closing the Chromebook NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser

If you need to force the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser to exit before the test is complete, use the keyboard shortcut **Shift + Esc + E**.

About Chrome apps and Manifest V3

As of the 24–25 academic year, the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser PWA uses Manifest V3 and is a Progressive Web App, not a Chrome app. All schools that have administered testing in the 24–25 year should already be updated to the PWA, and **no further action is necessary**. The legacy Chrome app no longer works for NSCAS testing; any devices that launch the legacy app will receive a message prompting them to install the PWA.

To uninstall the legacy app on a Chromebook, refer to Uninstall the legacy Chrome app below.

For background information, refer to Manifest V2 support timeline and End of support for Chrome apps from Google.

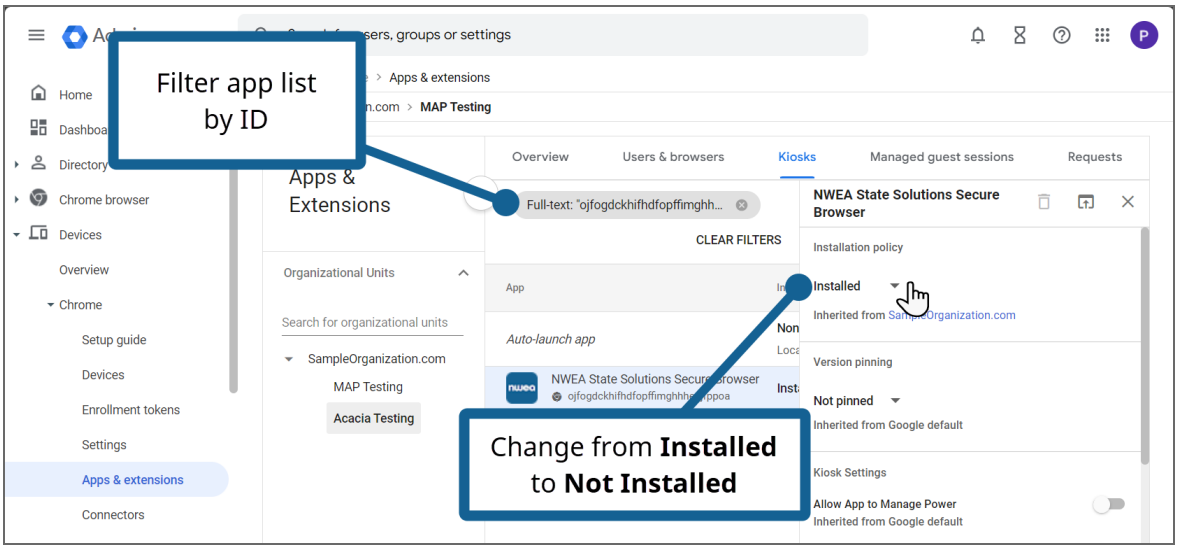
Uninstall the legacy Chrome app

To uninstall the legacy Chrome app:

1. Open the Google Admin console.
2. In the navigation pane, select **Devices** > **Chrome** > **Apps & Extensions**.
3. In the **Apps & Extensions** pane, select the **Kiosks** tab.
4. In the **Organizational Units** list, select the organizational unit where the legacy app is installed.
5. In the search box above the list of apps, enter the following app ID:

   `ojfogdckhifhdfopffimghhhepjfppoa`

6. The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser app with this ID appears in the list of apps. Select the app.
7. In the pane on the right, under **Installation policy**, change the menu from **Installed** to **Not installed**.



8. Choose **Save** to save your changes. The legacy NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser app will no longer appear in the list of kiosk apps after a few minutes.

macOS installation and management

This section describes how to manage the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser on supported macOS devices.

> **Important for 2025–2026**: The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser has been updated. Uninstall the previous version before installing the new version. Refer to Uninstall the browser on page 30 for instructions.

Device management software is preferred for deploying the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser. Refer to Using mobile device management (MDM) software below.

Alternatively, districts can install the browser on each computer either manually or via Apple Remote Desktop. Refer to Install manually on page 28 and Using Apple Remote Desktop (ARD) on page 28.

macOS includes the native VoiceOver screen reader which students could attempt to use during testing. VoiceOver should be turned off during testing. If a student has VoiceOver enabled, refer to Turn off VoiceOver on page 30 for instructions for turning it off during testing. Visit Accessibility Support on the Apple support site for more information about managing accessibility features.

Download the installer

To download the installer:

1. Open a web browser and navigate to the Online Readiness Tools page.
2. Select the macOS NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser PKG file to download and save the installer.

Install the browser

Using mobile device management (MDM) software

The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser may be installed and managed using third-party device management software. There are many options including **Simple MDM Server** at https://simplemdm.com, and **Jamf** at https://www.jamf.com.

> **Note**: Deploying the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser using device management software is required or preferred for later versions of macOS.
>
> Use the app bundle identifier `org.nwea.NWEAStateSolutions`.

To deploy and configure the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser:

a. If you have not done so already, download the PKG installer. Refer to Download the installer above for instructions.

b. Deploy the app to your devices. Links to instructions for some common MDM software are provided below. These third-party links may change without notice. Refer to the support documentation for the MDM software you use or contact the MDM software's support team for further assistance if necessary.

   - Simple MDM Server:
     - Adding macOS Packages
     - Deploying and Updating Apps
   - Jamf Pro: Package Deployment for Jamf Pro

c. Add a configuration profile for the State Partner Code. **The example steps below are for Jamf Pro**. If you use a different MDM software, refer to your support documentation or contact the MDM software's support team for further assistance if necessary.

   a. Log in to the Jamf Pro dashboard and select **Computers**.

   b. Select **Configuration Profiles**, then choose **New**.

   c. Go to **Options**, then **General Name**, and enter a display name.

   d. Go to **Options**, then **Application & Custom Settings**.

   e. Select **Upload**, then **Add**.

   f. In the **Preference Domain** text box, enter `org.nwea.NWEAStateSolutions`

   g. In the **PLIST** text box, enter the state partner code configuration as shown below:

```
<dict>
    <key>state_partner_code</key>
    <string>NSCAS</string>
</dict>
```

   > **Note**: This configuration is only for the NSCAS assessments. For other state assessments, contact your district or NWEA for the version of this guide for your state.

   h. Under **Scope**, select **Targets Computers**.

   i. From the list of computers, select Add beside the ones on which you want this profile installed.

   j. Select **Done**, then **Save**.

   k. Verify that the profile is installed on a computer by looking in **System Preferences**. Select **Profiles**, then **Device Profiles**.

d. Continue to Upload the configuration profile (MDM and ARD only) on page 29 to complete the installation.

Using Apple Remote Desktop (ARD)

To install the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser using ARD:

1. Log in to an administrator computer on the network. This computer should have **Apple Remote Desktop** installed and running.
2. If you have not done so already, download the installer.
3. Open **Apple Remote Desktop**.
4. In the **Apple Remote Desktop** window, select a **Computer List**.
5. Select the computers from the **Computer List** to install the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser on.
6. Open **Manage**, then select **Copy Items**.
7. Select the PKG file you downloaded. Refer to Download the installer on page 26.
8. Select **Copy Options**, including the preferred destination on the target machine.
9. Select **Copy**.
10. Continue to Upload the configuration profile (MDM and ARD only) on the next page to complete the installation.

Install manually

To install the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser on a computer:

1. If you have not done so already, download the installer.
2. Open the PKG installer you downloaded to the computer.
3. Select **Continue** in the **Setup** window.
4. Specify where the application should be installed and click **Continue**.
5. Select **Install** in the confirmation window.
6. Enter the password and click **Install Software** in the pop-up window.
7. When prompted for the Partner Code, enter: `NSCAS` (not case-sensitive).

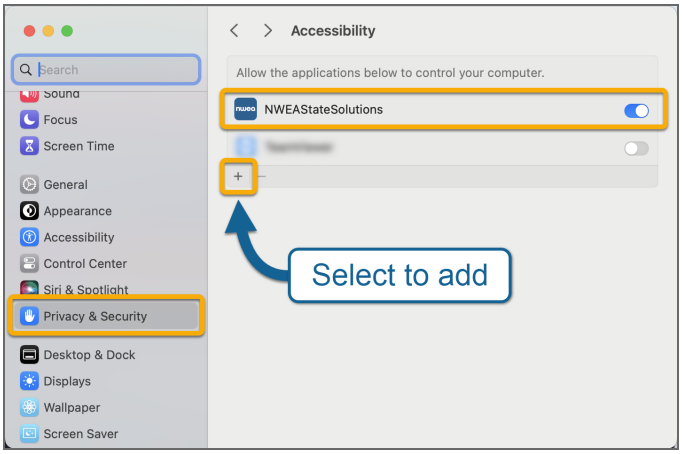
   > **Note**: This configuration is only for the NSCAS assessments. For other state assessments, contact your district or NWEA for the version of this guide for your state.

8. When the installation completes, click **Close** in the **Setup** window.
9. Select **Move to Trash** in the pop-up window to delete the installation file.
10. Add the app as a trusted application in the Security & Privacy settings:

a. In **System Settings**, select **Privacy & Security**.

b. In the list of privacy options, select **Accessibility**. A list of trusted applications appears.

c. At the bottom of the list of trusted applications, select the **+ button** and enter your password if prompted.



d. Choose the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser, then select **Open**.

e. Confirm that the toggle for the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser is on.

11. Launch the application by double-clicking the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser in the appropriate folder.

Upload the configuration profile (MDM and ARD only)

If you are installing the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser using mobile device management (MDM) software such as Jamf Pro, follow these additional steps to complete installation. Refer to the documentation for your MDM software for detailed instructions.

1. Download the MDM configuration profile from the Online Readiness Tools page.
2. In the MDM software, go to the configuration settings and select the option to upload a custom configuration profile.
3. Enter a profile name.
4. If prompted for an app bundle identifier, enter: `org.nwea.NWEAStateSolutions`
5. Upload the MDM configuration profile.
6. Deploy the profile to the testing computers.

Uninstall the browser

The app can be uninstalled using MDM software or manually.

Using mobile device management

Links to instructions for some common MDM software are provided below. These third-party links may change without notice. Refer to the support documentation for the MDM software you use or contact the MDM software's support team for further assistance if necessary.

- **Jamf Pro**: Uninstalling Packages
- **Simple MDM Server**: Deleting Apps

Uninstall manually

If the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser was installed manually, follow these steps to uninstall:

1. Open the **Applications** folder.
2. Right-click the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser folder and select **Move to Trash**.
3. In **System Preferences**, select **Security & Privacy**.
4. In **Security and Privacy** settings, select the **Privacy** tab, then choose **Accessibility** in the list on the left.
5. Select the **Lock** icon in the bottom left to allow changes.
6. Select the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser in the list of apps, then select the minus icon to remove it from the list.

Turn off VoiceOver

If students enable the screen reader VoiceOver, it can be turned off by using the keyboard shortcut **Command + F5**.

iOS installation and management

The Secure Browser application for iPad can be downloaded from the App store. The process for installing the application is the same as for any other iOS app.

For information about supported operating systems, hardware recommendations, and requirements for screen size, screen resolution, keyboards, and headphones, refer to Requirements for testing online on page 7.

> The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser for iOS automatically updates to the latest version. If auto-update is disabled, update via the App Store.

Install the app

Install manually

The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser for testing on iPads can be downloaded from the App store.

1. Open and search the Apple App Store for the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser app.
2. Select the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser app.
3. Tap the download icon to download and install the app. Select **Update** if the window appears.
4. Launch the app. When prompted, enter the partner code: `NSCAS`

> **Note**: This configuration is only for the NSCAS assessments. For other state assessments, contact your district or NWEA for the version of this guide for your state.

Using mobile device management (MDM) software

The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser may be installed and managed using third-party device management software. There are many options including **Simple MDM Server** at https://simplemdm.com, and **Jamf** at https://www.jamf.com.

The example steps below are for Jamf Pro; if you use a different MDM software, refer to your support documentation or contact the MDM's support team for further assistance if necessary.

1. Log in to the Jamf Pro dashboard.
2. Select **Devices** > **Mobile Device Apps** > **New**.
3. Choose **App Store app** then select **Next**.
4. Search for the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser.
5. In the search results, select **Add**. You will see app information such as display name, version, etc.
6. Select **Scope** > **Targets** > **Add**.

7. Select the devices you want to add the app to.
8. Select **App Configuration**.
9. Add the following configuration dictionary:

```
<dict>
    <key>state_partner_code</key>
    <string>NSCAS</string>
</dict>
```

> **Note**: This configuration is only for the NSCAS assessments. For other state assessments, contact your district or NWEA for the version of this guide for your state.

Uninstall the app

The example steps below are for Jamf Pro; if you use a different MDM software, refer to your support documentation or contact the MDM's support team for further assistance if necessary.

1. Log in to your Jamf Pro account.
2. Under the **Devices** tab, select **Mobile Device Apps**.
3. In the list of installed apps, select the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser.
4. Select **Delete** in the bottom right corner.
5. In the confirmation window, select **Delete** again.

Assessment mode for iOS

The NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser uses Apple's Automatic Assessment Configuration (AAC) feature to implement assessment mode. Assessment mode prevents students from closing the app or navigating to other apps, and it automatically starts when the app is launched. After the student completes or logs out of the assessment and selects the option to exit the app, assessment mode ends. Refer to Set up iPad and Mac to give tests and assessments on the Apple support site for more information about assessment mode.

Follow these steps to launch the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser app in assessment mode.

1. Open the app. During the system configuration check, a **Confirm App Self-Lock** notification pops up.
2. Select **Yes** to start assessment mode. Verify that the system check passes, and the app starts normally.
3. If you or a student selects **No**:

a. The Security Configuration portion of the system configuration check fails, giving error code 410: "This application runs only in single app mode. You must enable it in the 'Confirm App Self-Lock' pop-up notification."

b. Select the **Retry** button to run the system configuration check again and confirm app self-lock.

Close the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser app

To close the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser app:

1. After the student completes or logs out of their test, they are returned to the **Select a test to take** landing page. When they select **Exit** from this page, assessment mode ends.
2. Double-click the **Home** button or swipe up from the bottom of the screen, then pause in the center of the screen. This opens the App Switcher.
3. Locate the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser app preview and slide it upward.

Updating the partner code

The partner code typically never changes, so organizations do not need to worry about changing the code regularly. However, if the partner code was entered incorrectly on a device, or if a school is instructed to update the partner code on a specific device, follow these instructions.

Mac or Windows

To update the partner code:

1. Open the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser Preferences app.
    - Windows: Located in the **Start** menu > **NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser** folder
    - macOS: Located in **Applications** > **NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser** folder
2. Select **Network & Proxy**.
3. Update the **Partner Code** field. The code for Nebraska is `NSCAS`.
4. Select **Save** to save your changes.

iOS

To update the partner code:

1. Open the **Settings** app.
2. Select the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser.
3. Under the **State Partner** section, update the **Code** field. The code for Nebraska is `NSCAS`.

Chromebook

To update the partner code:

1. Launch the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser.
2. While the system checks are running, use the keyboard shortcut **Ctrl**+**Shift**+**5** to open the preferences window.

    > **Note**: Once the browser has fully launched, users cannot access the preferences window. Close the app and relaunch it to try again. Refer to Closing the Chromebook NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser on page 24 for instructions.

3. Update the **State Partner Code** field. The code for Nebraska is `NSCAS`.

Test Year 2025–2026