



Mission: To lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living.

Strategic Priorities:

- Ensure all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable access to opportunities for success
- Increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life

Why Are We Here? Individual Student Reports (DRC data)

- Schools have, or will soon have, Individual Student Reports (ISRs) with data provided by DRC and parents will soon have access to these numbers.
- The DRC numbers are preliminary and may change slightly but not significantly when they are independently verified by NDE and a third-party verifier.
- The data we'll be discussing is regarding NeSA-ELA grades 3-8 and ACT grade 11
- Individual ACT results have been sent to parents and students. We do not have statewide numbers available. However, preliminary results appear to reveal a similar trend in scores to that of NeSA-ELA.

We've Raised the Bar for All Students in the State

- This is a new baseline in Nebraska. We have raised the bar because in Nebraska and across the country it is clear that creating expectations for success beyond high school relies on a set of high expectations. However, we have not done so lightly. We know that raising this bar requires a substantial movement to align efforts to meet expectations for the future.
- Nebraska educators and education leaders developed the standards, test questions, and cut scores. Nebraska educators have high standards for Nebraska students because we have great schools and know the students will succeed.

Explanation of Proficiency Numbers Under New NeSA-ELA College and Career Ready Standards

- NDE expected the change in proficiency numbers and have been communicating to schools, districts, and the public that the expected results were forthcoming for three years.
- The change in number of non-proficient students is a result of the increased expectations for students in Nebraska as we move to a focus of all students becoming College and Career Ready.
- Teachers and students are not suddenly poor performers. It is now our responsibility as education leaders to work with districts, schools, and students to meet these higher expectations.
- Lower proficiency levels have happened in all other states (without exception) where standards have been aligned to College and Career Ready benchmarks.
- NDE experienced similar proficiency scores during the transition from STARS to NeSA
- Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) was not the sole cause of the low proficiency in scores. The NeSA-ELA was simply a very difficult assessment to take in all areas.

Next Steps for Statewide Summative Assessments

- We cannot make comparisons between this year's NeSA-ELA scores and any previous scores. This is a new baseline with high expectations for College and Career Readiness. There is really no comparison.
- We fully expect the scores to improve as College and Career Ready curriculum is updated and implemented in classrooms across the state.
- Whereas the NeSA-ELA was aligned to College and Career Ready standards, NeSA-Math and NeSA-Science were not. However, they will be aligned in future state assessments.
- Additionally, Nebraska is moving toward a much more student-centered approach for assessment moving forward. Ultimately state assessment is about our student's success, not in tests but in learning, earning, and living.

NDE Support for All

- NDE will support all students and schools as they strive for excellence, working toward the vision of a balanced assessment system for Nebraska as part of our accountability and support system under AQuESTT.

PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 1
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)	SCALE SCORE RANGE: BELOW 200	SCALE SCORE RANGE:	SCALE SCORE RANGE:
	Level 3 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.	Level 2 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.	Level 1 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.

	BELOW THE STANDARDS	MEETS THE STANDARDS	EXCEEDS THE STANDARDS
MATHEMATICS	SCALE SCORE RANGE: BELOW 085	SCALE SCORE RANGE: 085 - 134	SCALE SCORE RANGE: 135 - 200
	Overall student performance in mathematics reflects <i>unsatisfactory</i> performance on the standards and <i>insufficient</i> understanding of the content at eighth grade. A student scoring at the Below the Standards level <i>inconsistently</i> draws on a broad range of mathematical knowledge and utilizes a variety of mathematics skills and strategies to solve real-world mathematical problems.	Overall student performance in mathematics reflects <i>satisfactory</i> performance on the standards and <i>sufficient</i> understanding of the content at eighth grade. A student scoring at the Meets the Standards level <i>generally</i> draws on a broad range of mathematical knowledge and utilizes a variety of mathematics skills and strategies to solve real-world mathematical problems.	Overall student performance in mathematics reflects <i>high academic</i> performance on the standards and a <i>thorough</i> understanding of the content at or above eighth grade. A student scoring at the Exceeds the Standards level <i>consistently</i> draws on a broad range of mathematical knowledge and utilizes a variety of mathematics skills and strategies to solve real-world mathematical problems.
SCIENCE	SCALE SCORE RANGE: BELOW 085	SCALE SCORE RANGE: 085 - 134	SCALE SCORE RANGE: 135 - 200
	Overall student performance in science reflects <i>unsatisfactory</i> performance on the standards and <i>insufficient</i> understanding of the content at eighth grade. A student scoring at the Below the Standards level <i>inconsistently</i> draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.	Overall student performance in science reflects <i>satisfactory</i> performance on the standards and <i>sufficient</i> understanding of the content at eighth grade. A student scoring at the Meets the Standards level <i>generally</i> draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.	Overall student performance in science reflects <i>high academic</i> performance on the standards and a <i>thorough</i> understanding of the content at eighth grade. A student scoring at the Exceeds the Standards level <i>consistently</i> draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.

The numbers below represent preliminary data provided by DRC that parents and students will see on Individual Student Reports (ISRs). Due to rounding the three levels may not total 100%.

NeSA General Score Spring 2017

Preliminary Nebraska State 2017 Results NeSA-English Language Arts Proficiency by Grade

Grade Level	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Percent Proficient
Grade 3	47%	37%	16%	53%
Grade 4	44%	40%	16%	56%
Grade 5	49%	35%	16%	51%
Grade 6	53%	30%	17%	47%
Grade 7	53%	34%	13%	47%
Grade 8	49%	37%	14%	51%

Preliminary Nebraska State 2017 Results NeSA-Math Proficiency by Grade

Grade Level	Below	Meets	Exceeds	Percent Proficient
Grade 3	25%	46%	29%	75%
Grade 4	23%	50%	26%	76%
Grade 5	23%	51%	25%	76%
Grade 6	30%	46%	24%	70%
Grade 7	31%	46%	23%	69%
Grade 8	35%	47%	18%	65%

Preliminary Nebraska State 2017 Results NeSA-Science Proficiency by Grade

Grade Level	Below	Meets	Exceeds	Percent Proficient
Grade 5	28%	54%	18%	72%
Grade 8	31%	46%	22%	68%

Preliminary Nebraska State 2017 Results 11th Grade ACT

Content	Developing	On Track	ACT Benchmark	Percent On Track or Above
English Language Arts	46%	13%	41%	54%
Math	49%	20%	31%	51%
Science	45%	25%	30%	55%

ACT Benchmark

Students that meet or exceed the ACT College Readiness Benchmark are equipped to enroll (without remediation) and succeed in a credit-bearing first-year course at a two-year or four-year institution, trade school, or technical school. Students have at least a 50% chance of getting a B or better and a 75% chance of getting C or better in a first-year related content course.

On Track

On Track students are approaching the ACT College Readiness Benchmark and are likely to be able to access credit-bearing first-year related content course at some Nebraska postsecondary institutions without remediation.

Developing

Students in the Developing Level are likely to need developmental courses before being able to access credit-bearing first-year courses in the majority Nebraska postsecondary institutions.

Additional Information

In order to increase the chances of success after high school, students are encouraged to:

- engage in rigorous course work during their senior year
- take part in a wide range of career exploration activities
- build on existing strengths and address challenge areas
- work with adults to plan for college, career, and civic life
- gain work or volunteer experiences
- participate in activities beyond the classroom