

## North Carolina NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessments Brief

### Purpose of the Test

The North Carolina NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessments of Reading and Mathematics at grades 3–8; Science at grades 5 and 8; English II, NC Math 1, and Biology at grade 10; and Grade 11 are designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The assessment process requires students to complete grade-level, multiple-choice questions. The NCEXTEND1 alternate assessment questions measure the content standards specified in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study Extended Content Standards for reading, mathematics, and science.

### Eligible Students

To determine participation in the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessments, the following eligibility requirements must be met:

- The student must have a current Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- The student must have a significant cognitive disability.
  - The student’s disability significantly impacts cognitive functioning and adaptive behaviors, defined as those skills, which are essential for someone to live and function independently.
  - The student requires extensive and repeated individualized instruction and support to make meaningful gains.
  - The student uses substantially adapted materials and individualized methods of accessing information in alternative ways.
- The student must be instructed using the North Carolina Extended Content Standards (i.e., reading, mathematics, science).
- The student must be enrolled in grades 3–8, 10, or 11 according to the NC Student Information System.
  - Students enrolled in the 11th grade are required to take the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessment at grade 11 unless they are repeating the 11th grade and have a score from the previous year.

### Administration Options

The assessments are teacher-facilitated and are administered individually to each student. There are three administration options available for the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessments. The IEP team determines, based on the individual needs of the student, which of the following options is most appropriate:

- Option 1: teacher-facilitated online with the student recording responses on the device (Optional: The paper test cards that coincide with the online test questions can also be placed in front of the student.),
- Option 2: teacher-facilitated online with the teacher recording the student’s responses on the device (Optional: The paper test cards that coincide with the online test questions can also be placed in front of the student.), or
- Option 3: teacher-facilitated online with paper test cards while the teacher records the student’s responses on the device.

**Testing Window**

Students take the NCEXTEND1 for grades 3–8 and 10 during the last ten days of the school year. Students take the NCEXTEND1 at grade 11 during the designated testing window.

**Administration Time**

The time required by a student to complete the assessment(s) is unique depending on the student's ability to maintain focus, medical condition, or fatigue factor(s).

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