

NC Check-Ins 2.0 Science Grades 5 and 8 Specifications

Purpose and Overview

NC Check-Ins 2.0 are interim assessments aligned to North Carolina grade-level content standards in science for grades 5 and 8 and are developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). There are three Science NC Check-Ins 2.0 at each grade level. Each Science NC Check-In 2.0 focuses on a strand of the NC Essential Standards for Science Grades 5 and 8: Physical Science (P), Earth Science (E), and Life Science (L).

The main purpose of NC Check-Ins 2.0 is to provide students, teachers, parents, and stakeholders with immediate in-depth action-data and a reliable estimate of students' current performance on the selected sub-set of content standards. A secondary purpose is derived from NC Check-Ins 2.0s' strong relationship with grade-level end-of-grade (EOG) summative tests. Both EOGs and NC Check-Ins 2.0 share a common item bank, and performance on the NC Check-Ins 2.0 serves as an early indicator of a student's level of preparedness for the EOG summative test.

The NCDPI does not have validity evidence to support using results from NC Check-Ins 2.0 as a predictor of student performance on the EOG summative test. Even though there is evidence of a significant correlation between scores from NC Check-Ins 2.0 and EOGs, this correlation evidence by itself does not signify prediction. The overall value of NC Check-Ins 2.0 is the use of in-depth action-data for formative purposes throughout the year to help students and teachers adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes.

Content Specifications

- The NC Check-Ins 2.0 are aligned to the NC Essential Standards for Science, adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education in March 2011.
- The Essential Standards may be reviewed by visiting the NCDPI/Academic Standards for Science [webpage](#).
- The following content specifications are for test development purposes only and are not presented as a mandated pacing guide. The delivery of curriculum and instruction is a local decision; therefore, it is the expectation that since most objectives aren't taught in isolation, some schools will not have covered all areas in all standards assessed in any one NC Check-In 2.0.
- Data from content standards that have not been taught should be used as pre-test data.

Table 1. Content specifications NC Check-Ins 2.0 Science Grade 5

NC Check-In 2.0 Science Grade 5 Assessed Standards		
Life (L) (25 Items)	Earth (E) (15 Items)	Physical (P) (25 Items)
L.1.1	E.1.1	P.1.1
L.1.2	E.1.2	P.1.2
L.2.1	E.1.3	P.1.3
L.2.2		P.1.4
L.2.3		P.2.1
L.3.1		P.2.2
L.3.2		P.2.3
		P.3.1
		P.3.2

Table 2. Content specifications NC Check-Ins 2.0 Science Grade 8

NC Check-Ins 2.0 Science Grade 8 Assessed Standards		
Life (L) (30 Items)	Earth (E) (24 Items)	Physical (P) (24 Items)
L.1.1	E.1.1	P.1.1
L.1.2	E.1.2	P.1.2
L.2.1	E.1.3	P.1.3
L.3.1	E.1.4	P.1.4
L.3.2	E.2.1	P.2.1
L.3.3	E.2.2	P.2.2
L.4.1		
L.4.2		
L.5.1		
L.5.2		

NC Check-Ins 2.0 Format

The NC Check-Ins 2.0 are online resources with fifteen to thirty questions each. Each interim will include four-option multiple-choice questions.

Administration and Review

To accommodate local control of curriculum, the NCDPI will offer a flexible administration and review window for all interims that will open the third

week of September to the end of May. Public school units (PSUs) may choose to administer interims in the order that best aligns with their curriculum. Each NC Science Check-In 2.0 can only be given once within any given year.

Proctors are not recommended for the administration of interims. The interims are not timed; however, the estimated time for most students to complete an interim is about ninety minutes. Schools have the option to administer the interims in one school day or over multiple school days. For multiple school days, the total administration time can be divided into mini sessions.

The interim item-review window for teachers will also be available from the third week of September to the end of May. Teachers may access interim forms after administration so they can conduct formative reviews with their students. The main purpose of these interims is to provide reliable formative data on course-level-specific content standards so teachers may adjust instruction. Previewing or disclosing interim content to students before an administration may result in an invalid interpretation about student performance on course-level-specific content standards.

Some schools may not have completed the entire scope for all standards assessed in a NC Check-In 2.0 before the administration.