

2025–26 Required Testing (Alternate Assessments)

The following chart includes required operational tests administered statewide in the North Carolina Testing Program. **Blue font** denotes the alternate assessments that are available to eligible students who have appropriate documentation. In addition, field tests or special studies may be administered annually in selected subjects and grades, and some North Carolina students participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) at grades 4, 8 and 12.

Grade Level	Reading	Mathematics	Science	Other	English Learners
3	Beginning-of-Grade 3 Reading Test ¹	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴			WIDA™ Screener ³ ACCESS for ELLs ^{®3} WIDA Alternate ACCESS ⁴
	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴				
4	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴ NAEP ⁵	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴ NAEP ⁵	NAEP ⁵		WIDA Screener ³ ACCESS for ELLs ³ WIDA Alternate ACCESS ⁴
5	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴		WIDA Screener ³ ACCESS for ELLs ³ WIDA Alternate ACCESS ⁴
6	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴			WIDA Screener ³ ACCESS for ELLs ³ WIDA Alternate ACCESS ⁴
7	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴			WIDA Screener ³ ACCESS for ELLs ³ WIDA Alternate ACCESS ⁴
8	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴ NAEP ⁵	EOG ² NC Math 1 ⁶ NCEXTEND ¹⁴ NAEP ⁵	EOG ² NCEXTEND ¹⁴ NAEP ⁵		WIDA Screener ³ ACCESS for ELLs ³ WIDA Alternate ACCESS ⁴

¹ The Beginning-of-Grade 3 (BOG3) Reading Test is linked to the Read to Achieve legislation (G.S. §115C-83.1). Additionally, the BOG3 serves as a teacher-growth tool used as part of the North Carolina Teacher Evaluation Process (TEST-016, EVAL-004).

² The End-of-Grade (EOG) tests are administered per state and federal requirements: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015; School Achievement, Growth, Performance Scores, and Grades—G.S. §115C-83.15; G.S. §115C-174.11; Read to Achieve legislation—G.S. § 115 C-83.6.School Performance for the Purpose of Compliance with Federal Law—G.S. §115C-83.16; 16 N.C. Administrative Code 06G. 0315—Accountability Annual Performance Standards; TEST-016—Use of State-Designated Assessments for the NC Teacher Evaluation Process, EVAL-004—Teacher Performance Appraisal Process; ACCT-020—Accountability Model Components.

³ Federal and state policies require all K–12 students identified as language minority students through the Home Language Survey process upon initial enrollment be assessed for limited English language proficiency. The state instrument for the identification of ELs is the WIDA Screener. The identification and the subsequent placement of ELs in English as a Second Language (ESL) services are guided at the state level by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Office of Academic Standards. All students identified as ELs (based solely upon the WIDA Screener or ACCESS for ELLs scores) must be administered the ACCESS for ELLs or its alternate during the annual English language proficiency testing window.

⁴ Policy requires in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and ESSA all eligible students who are instructed using the *North Carolina Extended Content Standards* in all assessed content areas (i.e., reading, mathematics, and science) participate in the alternate assessment with or without accommodations. The College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessments (grades 10 and 11) are State Board of Education (SBE) requirements per G.S. §115C-174.11 [c][4]. The WIDA Alternate ACCESS is an option to eligible students (English Learners only) for the administration of the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.

⁵ NC State law requires that every public school must participate in all NAEP and international assessments. However, federal law specifies that NAEP is voluntary for every student.

⁶ NC state law requires that every public school must participate in all NAEP and international assessments. However, federal law specifies that NAEP is voluntary for every student.

⁶ All eligible students in membership at grade 8 enrolled for credit in NC Math 1 shall take the EOC test at the completion of the course. Schools shall exempt these students from being assessed on the grade 8 mathematics EOG test (ACCT-021—Accountability Annual Performance Standards).

Grade Level	Reading	Mathematics	Science	Other	English Learners
9		NC Math 1 ⁷			WIDA Screener ³ ACCESS for ELLs ³ WIDA Alternate ACCESS⁴
10	English II ⁷ NCEXTEND1⁴	NCEXTEND1⁴	Biology ⁷ NCEXTEND1⁴	PreACT ⁸ College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment Grade 10⁴	WIDA Screener ³ ACCESS for ELLs ³ WIDA Alternate ACCESS⁴
11		NC Math 3 ⁷		ACT ⁹ College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment Grade 11⁴ NCEXTENDI Grade 11⁴	WIDA Screener ³ ACCESS for ELLs ³ WIDA Alternate ACCESS⁴
12	NAEP ⁵	NAEP ⁵	NAEP ⁵	ACT WorkKeys ¹⁰	WIDA Screener ³ ACCESS for ELLs ³ WIDA Alternate ACCESS⁴

⁷ End-of-Course (EOC) tests are administered per state and federal requirements: ESSA of 2015; School Achievement, Growth, Performance Scores, and Grades—G.S. §115C-83.15; School Performance for the Purpose of Compliance with Federal Law—G.S. §115C-83.16; 6 NCAC 06G .0315—Accountability Annual Performance Standards; G.S. §115C-174.11TEST-016—Use of State-Designated Assessments for the NC Teacher Evaluation process, EVAL-004—Teacher Performance Appraisal Process; ACCT-020—Accountability Model Components.

⁸ PreACT (grade 10) is an SBE requirement per G.S. §115C-174.11[c][4].

⁹ ACT (grade 11) is an SBE requirement per G.S. §115C-174.11. SBE policies include ACCT-020—Accountability Model Components and; School Achievement, Growth, Performance Scores, and Grades—G.S. §115C-83.15; School Performance for the Purpose of Compliance with Federal Law—G.S. §115C-83.16.

¹⁰ ACT WorkKeys is an SBE requirement (G.S. §115C-174.25). SBE policies include ACCT-020—Accountability Model Components and ACCT-021—Accountability Annual Performance Standards; School Achievement, Growth, Performance Scores, and Grades—G.S. §115C-83.15; School Performance for the Purpose of Compliance with Federal Law—G.S. §115C-83.16.