



End-of-Grade Reading Tests at Grades 3–8 North Carolina Test Specifications

Purpose of the Tests

- The Grades 3–8 End-of-Grade (EOG) Reading Tests measure students' reading proficiency on the [North Carolina Standard Course of Study \(NCSCoS\) for English Language Arts](#), adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education in June 2017.
- Test results are used for school accountability under the accountability model and for federal reporting purposes.

Curriculum Cycle

- June 2017: North Carolina State Board of Education adoption of the [NCSCoS for English Language Arts](#)
- 2017–2018: Item development for the EOG Reading Tests
- 2018–2019: Administration of embedded field test items for the EOG Reading Tests
- 2020–2021: First operational administration of the EOG Reading Tests (Edition 5)

Standards

- The [NCSCoS for English Language Arts](#) is divided into 4 strands: reading; writing; speaking and listening; and language arts. The EOG assesses only reading standards.

Developing Tests

- North Carolina educators were recruited and trained to write new items. The diversity among the item writers and their knowledge of the current standards was addressed during recruitment. Trained North Carolina educators also review items and suggest improvements, if necessary. The use of North Carolina educators to write and review items strengthens evidence of content validity of EOG assessments.
- For an in-depth explanation of the test development process, see State Board Policy [Multiple-Choice Test Development](#) (TEST-013) or reference the [Test Development Process: Item, Selection, and Form Development document](#).

Prioritization of Standards

- Members of the NCDPI/Test Development Section invited North Carolina educators to collaborate and develop recommendations for a prioritization of the standards, indicating the relative importance of each standard, the anticipated instructional time, and the appropriateness of the standard for test design.
- Subsequently, curriculum and test development staff from the NCDPI met to review these recommendations from teacher panels and adopt final weight distributions across the domains for each grade level.
- *Tables 1, 2, and 3* describe the range of total items by domain and Depth of Knowledge (DOK) that will appear on the EOG Reading Tests.

Table 1. EOG Reading Grades 3–5 Domain Distributions

Domain	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Reading for Literature	38–42%	38–42%	38–42%
Reading for Informational Text	46–50%	46–50%	46–50%
Language	13–15%	13–15%	13–15%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 2. EOG Reading Grades 6–8 Domain Distributions

Domain	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Reading for Literature	36–41%	36–41%	36–41%
Reading for Informational Text	43–47%	43–47%	43–47%
Language	11–16%	11–16%	11–16%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 3. EOG Reading Grades 3–8 Item by DOK Distribution

Grades	DOK1	DOK2	DOK3
3	20–40%	60–80%	—
4	12–25%	50–75%	5–10%
5	—	75–90%	10–25%
6	—	60–82%	18–40%
7	—	60–82%	18–40%
8	—	60–82%	18–40%

Cognitive Rigor and Item Complexity

- Test items for the EOG Reading Tests have been designed, developed, and classified to ensure that the cognitive rigor of the operational test forms align to the cognitive complexity and demands of the [NCSCoS for English Language Arts](#) reading standards. Items on the EOG assessments cover the full breadth and depth of grade-level cognitive expectation that can be assessed using the current test format.

Testing Structure and Test Administration Time

- Included in the total item counts are embedded field test items that will not be included as part of students' final scores but will be used for purposes of developing items for future test forms.
- *Table 4* provides the number of selections, items by selection, and number of operational and field test items for EOG Reading Tests.

Table 4. Total Number of Items

EOG Reading	Operational		Field Test		Total	
	Selections	Items	Selections	Items	Selections	Items
EOG Reading 3–5	5	8	1	8	6	48
EOG Reading 6–8	6	5–8	1	8	7	52

- Based on analysis of item-completion timing data, the NCDPI estimates it will take 2 hours (120 minutes) for most students to complete the EOG Reading Tests. The NCDPI requires all students be allowed ample opportunity to complete the test. The maximum amount of time allowed is 3 hours (180 minutes) except for students with documented special needs requiring accommodations, such as *Scheduled Extended Time*. Refer to the [North Carolina Test Coordinators' Policies and Procedures Handbook](#) for additional information.
- To balance between complexity and the reading load for grade 3 students, each selection within the Grade 3 EOG Reading Test is divided into two separate parts. Items within each selection have also been divided and presented at the end of each subsequent part.

Types of Items and Supplemental Materials

- The EOG Reading Tests will consist of four-response-option multiple-choice items.
- All students must be provided blank paper.
- Released forms will be available on the [EOG webpage](#) and to schools through NCTest, the NCDPI's online testing platform. The released forms for the EOG Reading Tests are built using the same operational test specifications. A single released form may not reflect the full breadth and depth of grade-level assessed standards, but it reflects the range of difficulty found on any EOG operational test form.
 - Released forms may be used by public school units to help acquaint students with items. These materials must not be used for personal or financial gain.

Test Cycle and Delivery Mode

- The EOG Reading Tests must be administered during the last ten (10) days (traditional yearlong schedule) of the instructional year.
- The EOG Reading Test is available for paper/pencil and online administrations. Online tests are provided through NCTest, the NCDPI's online testing platform. Paper/pencil versions of all online tests, including required online administrations, are available for technology hardship situations and for students with disabilities who need to test in the paper mode for accessibility.
- Schools must ensure every student participating in an online test for the North Carolina Testing Program completes the Online Assessment Tutorial for the associated test at least once at the school before test day. The tutorial provides students the opportunity to practice the mechanics of navigating through the testing platform, to become familiar with the tools, and to respond to the sample items. Refer to the [North Carolina Test Coordinators' Policies and Procedures Handbook](#) for additional information.
- The EOG Reading Tests are provided only in English. Native language translation versions are not available. North Carolina [G.S. §115C-81.45\(a\)](#) requires all teachers and principals to conduct all classes other than foreign language classes in English.

Additional Resources

- All EOG Reading score reports for 2021 will be delayed because of Standard Setting.
- Achievement Level Descriptors will be finalized during Standard Setting in July 2021 and presented to the State Board in August 2021 and will be posted to the

[EOG webpage](#) upon board adoption.

- A sample Individual Student Report for the EOG Reading Test will be available on the NCDPI [Individual Student Report \(ISRs\) webpage](#) after State Board approval of the Achievement Level Descriptors.

EOG Reading Standards Assessed

Table 5 shows the standards that are assessed on the EOG Reading Test at each grade.

Table 5. EOG Reading Standards Assessed by Grade

Domain	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
<i>Reading for Literature</i>						
RL.1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RL.2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RL.3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RL.4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RL.5				✓	✓	
RL.6			✓	✓	✓	✓
RL.7						
RL.8						
RL.9						
RL.10						
<i>Reading for Information</i>						
RI.1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RI.2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RI.3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RI.4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RI.5		✓		✓	✓	✓
RI.6				✓	✓	✓
RI.7						
RI.8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RI.9						
RI.10						
<i>Language</i>						
L.4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
L.5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓