

NC Check-Ins School Talking Points

The following *School Talking Points* has been developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to assist public school units in the implementation of the NC Check-Ins. This information should be used in conjunction with any published supplements or updates.

1. NC Check-Ins are interim assessments developed by the NCDPI that are aligned to North Carolina grade-level content standards (for reading and mathematics) and North Carolina Essential Standards (for science). The main purpose of NC Check-Ins is to provide students, teachers, and parents with immediate in-depth action data and a reliable estimate of students' current performance on selected subsets of content standards. Both the end-of-grade (EOG) and end-of course (EOC) tests share a common question bank with the NC Check-Ins, which then exposes NC Check-In students to similar question types and rigor found on the EOGs and EOCs.
2. School participation in the NC Check-Ins is voluntary and open to all public school units. For the 2021–22 school year, the following NC Check-Ins are available
 - Grades 3–8 Reading (measures all assessable grade-level content standards and increases in text complexity)
 - Grades 3–8 Mathematics (measures selected subsets of grade-level content standards)
 - Grades 5 and 8 Science (measures Physical Science, Earth Science, and Life Science)
 - Biology (measures Structure, Ecosystems, Genetics and Evolution, and Molecular)
 - NC Math 1 (measures selected subsets of course-level content standards)
3. The NC Check-Ins are available for administration and review during the designated window.
 - NC Math 1 and Biology: September 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022
 - Reading, Mathematics, and Science: October 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022

4. Quick facts about the NC Check-Ins:

- NC Check-Ins are not timed assessments. However, the time it takes for most students to complete an NC Check-In is about ninety minutes.
- During the 2021–22 school year, schools may administer the NC Check-Ins to students receiving instruction remotely.
- NC Check-Ins are available online and in paper format.
 - Online administrations are required for Grades 5 and 8 Science, Biology, and NC Math 1.
 - A paper version is available for accessibility purposes if there is supporting documentation for the need in the student’s current Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.
- NC Check-Ins do not contain sample questions.
- Grades 3–8 Reading NC Check-Ins contain multiple-choice questions.
- Grades 3–8 Mathematics and NC Math 1 Check-Ins contain multiple-choice questions.
 - Each assessment is in two parts. The first part is calculator inactive; the second part is calculator active. For the calculator inactive part, students are not allowed to use a calculator. For the calculator active part, students can use a calculator.
- Grades 5–8 Mathematics and NC Math 1 Check-Ins contain gridded response (paper format) and numeric entry (online format) questions.
- Grades 5 and 8 Science and Biology NC Check-Ins contain multiple-choice questions.

5. Students with current Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), Section 504 Plans, English Learner (EL) Plans, or Transitory Impairment documentation may use instructional accommodations for the NC Check-Ins except for the *Test Read Aloud (in English)* and *Test Administrator Signs/Cues* accommodations for the grades 3–8 Reading. Reading aloud or signing/cueing the selections, questions, or answer choices on the Reading NC Check-In invalidates results because the NC Check-In measures reading skills.

6. Each NC Check-In will generate student-level reports indicating the number of questions correct by content standard, question type, and selection type, and will report an overall score. Teacher-level reports will provide a summary with similar information. Parents may receive

student reports with an overall score by standard and question number. Students will not receive achievement levels for the NC Check-Ins.

7. Following the administration of an NC Check-In, teachers are encouraged to use the students' assessment and results to inform and guide instruction around the standards. NC Check-In materials (e.g., student books, questions, content) cannot be shared with other schools. Parents can view the students' scores, responses, and assessment books (for paper administrations) through customary communication (i.e., individual parent and teacher conferences at the school) within the school setting only.
8. NC Check-In scores are not included in accountability.
9. District and state comparison data will be reported by student, teacher, and school. Comparing district-level results to state-level results is not particularly meaningful. Different schools and classes may be at different places in covering the content based on their testing windows and school calendars. The purpose of the NC Check-Ins is to provide individual and classroom-level *formative* feedback. Comparisons to other classrooms, schools, or public school units are neither encouraged, nor advised. It would be a misinterpretation for a public school unit to conclude that their students performed better or worse than another public school unit or the state. The value in the NC Check-In results is for teachers to determine if their students have learned the content standards that were covered in their classroom prior to the assessments.