

# North Carolina Gridded Response Practice Activity Assessment Brief



The paper/pencil editions of the North Carolina End-of-Grade (EOG) Mathematics Tests at Grades 5–8 and the End-of-Course (EOC) NC Math 1 and NC Math 3 Tests contain gridded response questions. These questions require a student to write and bubble numerical answers on the answer sheet rather than to select an answer from several choices. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) requires students to take the Gridded Response Practice Activity before these test administrations.

The required practice activity provides students with an opportunity to become familiar with the gridded response format before the administration of the EOG or EOC mathematics tests. While using the practice activity, teachers should help students understand recording procedures to minimize student anxiety and errors during the actual test administration. Guidelines, practice pages, and examples for gridded responses are located on the NCDPI website at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/testing-and-school-accountability/state-tests>.

## Directions for Recording Answers to Gridded Response Items

Students must use the top row of boxes on the grid to write their numerical answer. Only one digit or symbol is to be printed in each box; only the symbols that are provided in the grid circles may be used in the answers. Spaces are permitted before or after the answer, but not within the answer.

- **Negative numbers.** For answers that are negative numbers, students must write the negative sign in the top leftmost column.
- **Symbols.** Students must not use symbols such as commas or dollar signs. Only symbols that are provided in the circles are to be used in answers.
- **Mixed Numbers.** A mixed number must be changed and entered as an improper fraction or a decimal. For example, the mixed number four and one-half could be entered as  $9/2$  or as 4.5, with a decimal.
- **Equal answers.** Entries equal to the correct answer are acceptable. For example, if the answer to a question is  $2/4$ , it can be entered as  $2/4$ ,  $1/2$ , 0.5, 00.5, or .5000 as well as other equivalent numbers.

After students enter their answer in the top row of boxes, they must complete the grid by bubbling in (darkening) the corresponding circle below each box. Scoring is based on the darkened circles.

## Sample Grid

Below is a sample grid and directions for gridded response questions. The grade 5 EOG mathematics test does not contain answers with a negative value, so the grid will not contain a negative symbol.

Write your answer in the empty boxes on the top row. Enter only one digit or symbol in each box.

The negative sign is located in the top left circle (grades 6–8 and NC Math 1 and NC Math 3 only).

The second row of circles is decimal points.

These circles are for bubbling (darkening) digits.

**Remember:** Spaces are not permitted within your answer.

The division sign (/), to indicate fractions, is located in the top row of circles, to the right of the negative sign.

Darken one circle in each column that matches your answer printed in the grid.

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