2023–24 NC Check-Ins 2.0
North Carolina Personalized Assessment Tool System
Frequently Asked Questions

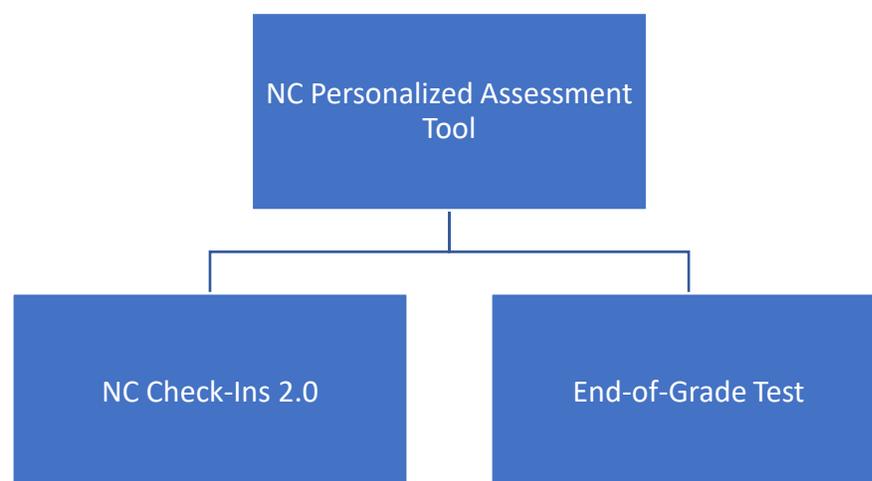**North Carolina Personalized Assessment Tool**

1. **What is the North Carolina Personalized Assessment Tool (NCPAT) system?**
   In 2015 the Task Force on Summative Assessment recommended the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's (NCDPI) Office of Accountability and Testing develop and implement a through-grade assessment that would provide teachers, students, and parents with information about student performance on grade-level content standards throughout the school year and provide reliable test score data for state and federal accountability. The first phase was the development and implementation of NC Check-Ins in 2015 as a pilot to volunteer schools. Subsequently, the NC Check-Ins were available at all grades and to all public school units (PSUs).

   With the positive feedback on NC Check-Ins and with the opportunity for an Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority from the United States Department of Education, NCDPI has been piloting the NCPAT system, an expanded model of through-grade assessments. The pilot is a five-year research study with the intention of implementing the NCPAT system statewide no later than the 2024–25 school year at grades 3–8 in reading and mathematics.

   The NCPAT system includes three interims and an end-of-grade (EOG) test aligned to North Carolina grade-level content standards for reading and mathematics. In the 2022–23 school year, schools participating in the NCPAT pilot administered NC Check-Ins 2.0 for mathematics and reading to eligible students at grades 4, 5, 7 and 8 and NCPAT EOG tests for reading and mathematics at grades 4 and 7.

```
            ┌──────────────────────────┐
            │ NC Personalized Assessment│
            │          Tool             │
            └─────────────┬────────────┘
                ┌─────────┴─────────┐
      ┌─────────────────┐   ┌─────────────────┐
      │ NC Check-Ins 2.0│   │ End-of-Grade Test│
      └─────────────────┘   └─────────────────┘
```

2. Are schools required to participate in the NCPAT?
The NCPAT is currently a pilot research study. School participation in the NCPAT is voluntary and open to all public school units.

For the 2023–24 school year, all schools, including those not in the pilot, may voluntarily participate in the NC Check-Ins 2.0. The schools in the voluntary pilot (designated grades) participate in the NC Check-Ins 2.0 and NCPAT EOG tests.

3. What are NC Check-Ins 2.0?
The NC Check-Ins 2.0 are a component of the NCPAT system and are primarily intended to serve as formative assessments. The current design purposes of the NC Check-Ins 2.0 are to
- provide educators, students, and stakeholders with immediate and detailed feedback on student performance on grade-level-specific content standards to inform classroom instruction for individual student's needs; and
- provide a reliable estimate to inform a student's summative assessment experience.

4. Are schools required to give NC Check-Ins 2.0?
Participation in the NC Check-Ins 2.0 is voluntary. Participating schools are encouraged to consider the purposes of administering other interim or benchmark assessments to minimize duplication of effort and cumulative testing time.

5. Who is eligible to take an NC Check-In 2.0 and how many interims are available?
The chart below specifies eligibility for each NC Check-In 2.0. Only reading and mathematics at grades 3–8 are included in the NCPAT pilot.

NC Check-In 2.0	Eligibility	Number of Available
Reading	Students in membership at grades 3–8	3
Mathematics	Students in membership at grades 3–8	3
Science	Students in membership at grades 5 and 8	Physical Earth Life
Biology	Students enrolled in a biology course with a corresponding state course code	Structure Ecosystems Genetics and Evolution Molecular
English II	Students enrolled in an English II course with a corresponding state course code	2
NC Math 1	Students enrolled in Foundations of NC Math 1 or NC Math 1 course with a corresponding state course code	2
NC Math 3	Students enrolled in Foundations of NC Math 3 or NC Math 3 course with a corresponding state course code	2

6. **What standards are assessed on the NC Check-Ins 2.0?**
   Assessed standards are published on the NC Check-Ins 2.0 test specifications documents located on the NCDPI website.

7. **Can NC Check-Ins 2.0 be used as a progress indicator?**
   As part of the pilot, the NCDPI will explore if student performance data from NC Check-Ins 2.0 can be used to report a reliable progress indicator conditional on current performance. The progress indicator will express the likelihood a student is on track to be proficient with a level 3 or above on the end of year summative.

8. **How will NC Check-Ins 2.0 inform EOG tests?**
   For mathematics and reading, a multi-staged fixed adaptive design with three levels will be used in place of the traditional fixed EOG form. Student performance data from at least two NC Check-Ins 2.0 interims completed prior to April 1st will be combined and applied in a statistical model to determine the most informative EOG tests for each student to enhance precision and reliability of reported EOG scores. A decision of whether this will be implemented statewide for grades 4, 5, 7, and 8 in the 2023–24 school year will be published by September 29, 2023.

9. **Will professional development courses be available to help school staff understand how to access and interpret reports generated from NC Check-Ins 2.0?**
   The NCPAT offers two optional training courses, *Understanding Reports* and *Diving Deeper into Formative Assessments*. Both courses are optional, and it is a local decision on how the courses are used. Participants will receive a certificate of participation. It is a local decision to award participants continuing education units.

Administration and Review

---

10. **What are NC Check-Ins 2.0 administration and review period windows?**
    NC Check-Ins 2.0 are available for administration and review during the Annual Testing Program's designated windows. PSUs use the designated windows to determine when to administer interims and to allocate the amount of time necessary for review.

NC Check-In 2.0	Administration and Review Period Window	
• Biology • English II • Foundations of NC Math 1 • NC Math 1 • Foundations of NC Math 3 • NC Math 3	Yearlong courses	September 1, 2023–May 31, 2024
	Fall semester	September 1, 2023– February 14, 2024
	Spring semester	January 3, 2024–May 31, 2024
• Reading at Grades 3–8 • Mathematics at Grades 3–8 • Science at Grades 5 and 8	Yearlong	September 18, 2023–May 31, 2024

11. Must all NC Check-Ins 2.0 be administered for each subject?
No. All NC Check-Ins 2.0 do not have to be administered for each subject. However, students at volunteer pilot schools at grades 4, 5, 7, and 8 for the 2023–24 school year are encouraged to take at least two NC Check-Ins 2.0 in the same content area prior to April 1, 2024, for NC Check Ins 2.0 data to be used to inform the EOG test component of the NCPAT.

12. Are PSUs required to administer NC Check-Ins 2.0 in a particular order?
No. To accommodate local control of curriculum and pacing, the NCDPI provides a flexible administration and review window for all interims. PSUs may choose to administer interims in the order that best aligns with their curriculum and pacing. The NCDPI recommends one interim administration per quarter per content area.

13. Which formats are available for NC Check-Ins 2.0?
NC Check-Ins 2.0 require online administrations. The only exception to this requirement is for individual students with disabilities for whom a paper format is necessary for accessibility purposes as documented in their Individualized Education Program, Section 504 Plan, or transitory impairment documentation.

14. How much time does it take to complete an NC Check-Ins 2.0 interim?
NC Check-Ins 2.0 are not timed. However, the estimated and recommended timing for most students to complete an interim is about ninety minutes. Teachers are encouraged to determine the time permitted based on their students' needs.

15. Do students have to complete an NC Check-In 2.0 in one day?
It is recommended to complete each NC Check-Ins 2.0 in a single administration session. However, teachers also have the option to administer each NC Check-Ins 2.0 over multiple school days. For multiple school days, the total administration time can be divided into mini sessions as determined by the teacher.

16. Are students permitted to take NC Check-Ins 2.0 remotely?
Students receiving one-hundred percent virtual instruction may take NC Check-Ins 2.0 remotely.

17. Can teachers give an NC Check-In 2.0 that is not on grade-level?
No. NC Check-Ins 2.0 are designed to measure grade level specific content standards. Purposes, uses, and interpretation of NC Check-Ins 2.0 reports and data are grade level specific. There is no validity evidence to support off grade uses and interpretation of NC Check-Ins 2.0 results.

18. When administering NC Check-Ins 2.0, does the classroom need to be set-up as if the teacher is giving an EOG test?
No. The teacher should not alter the regular classroom setting for administrations of an NC Check-In 2.0 administration. For example, there is no need to cover bulletin boards or to post a "Testing—Do Not Disturb" sign on the door.

19. Are proctors required for NC Check-Ins 2.0?
No. Proctors are not required or recommended during NC Check-Ins 2.0 administrations. Schools are encouraged to maintain typical classroom environments during NC Check-In 2.0 administrations.

20. What is a student and teacher review session?
Following the administration of an NC Check-In 2.0, teachers are encouraged to use the student's results to inform and guide instruction on the standards. NC Check-Ins 2.0 materials (e.g., questions, content) cannot be shared with other schools. Parents can view the student's scores and responses through customary communication (i.e., individual parent and teacher conferences at the school) within the school setting only.

21. May online review forms be exported and loaded into other applications?
No. Online review forms must never be downloaded or saved to a device, copied using a screen capture device, or uploaded into any online platform (e.g., collaboration site, classroom website, third-party vendor).

Reporting

---

22. What types of information are available in NC Check-Ins 2.0 reports?
Each NC Check-In 2.0 will generate student-level reports for teachers indicating the number of questions correct by domain, content standard, and question type. Student answers to questions are available to teachers to guide instruction. School-level reports will provide a summary with similar information. District-level reports and a data extract are available to public school unit-level staff to support schools and teachers. Parents may receive individual student reports with qualitative data. Students will not receive achievement levels for the NC Check-Ins 2.0.

23. When are NC Check-Ins 2.0 reports available?
Reports are processed overnight and are typically available online the day after an NC Check-In 2.0 administration.

24. Who may access NC Check-Ins 2.0 reports?
NC Check-Ins 2.0 reports are designed to be accessed by teachers to support classroom instruction. PSU and school test coordinators have access to these reports. Additional school-level and public school unit-level staff may be granted access to review reports by the public school unit test coordinator.

25. How are NC Check-Ins 2.0 reports accessed?
NC Check-Ins 2.0 reports are accessed through the online reporting system in NCTest Admin. Teachers and all other school personnel who review reports must have an active NC Education account linked to the email in PowerSchool for the user.

26. Are PSUs required to provide an NC Check-Ins 2.0 Individual Student Report to parents?
No. It is optional for PSUs to provide an individual student report (ISR) for NC Check-Ins 2.0. PSUs providing ISRs are encouraged to issue the reports within thirty days of administrations. PSUs are strongly encouraged to explain the purposes and the uses of the data with parents.

Parents should be provided information about their student's performance, so they know how their student is progressing throughout the school year. PSUs may upload ISRs to the parent portal in PowerSchool.

27. Where can schools access a sample of the NC Check-Ins 2.0 ISRs?
Sample ISRs are available online on the [Individual Student Report](#) page.

28. Are NC Check-Ins 2.0 scores used in accountability or teacher evaluations?
No. NC Check-Ins 2.0 are classroom resources to support formative classroom practices, and student level results should not be used for district or state accountability as a metric for teacher evaluations.