

2025–26 North Carolina Operational Testing Calendar

It is a recommended best practice to complete testing early in the window and reserve the final days for makeup testing.

Grades K–8 ¹		
Grade Level	Test	Test Date
K–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WIDA™ Screener for Kindergarten WIDA Screener 	Initial assessment required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 30 calendar days of enrollment
K–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WIDA Kindergarten ACCESS WIDA ACCESS WIDA Alternate ACCESS 	Test Window: January 12–March 13, 2026
3	Beginning-of-Grade 3 (BOG3) Reading Test	Traditional schools: first fifteen days of school year (Days 1-15) Year-round schools: first fifteen days of school year ² beginning July 18, 2025
3–8	End-of-Grade (EOG) Reading and Mathematics Grades 3–8, and Science Grades 5 and 8	Final 10 instructional days of the school year
3	Grade 3 EOG Reading Retest	Final 10 instructional days of the school year
3	Read to Achieve Test for Grade 3	There are three windows within the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer 2025: At the conclusion of reading camp Fall 2025: Schools offering a transitional third and fourth class combination, or a fourth- grade accelerated class may make the local decision to administer by November 1, 2025 Spring 2026: Final 10 instructional days of the school year
3–8	NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessment for Reading and Mathematics Grades 3–8, and Science Grades 5 and 8	Final 10 instructional days of the school year
5–8	End-of-Course (EOC) Tests for Biology, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final 5 instructional days of the semester Final 10 instructional days of yearlong course

¹The decision to administer a required assessment must be based on eligibility requirements.

²NCTest does not open until July 18, 2025. For year-round schools opening before July 18, 2025, July 18th is day one of the fifteen day BOG3 window. For year-round schools opening after July 18, 2025, the first day of school is day one of the fifteen day BOG3 window.

Grades 9–12 ¹		
Grade Level	Test	Test Date
9–12	WIDA Screener	Initial assessment required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 30 calendar days of enrollment
9–12	Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) Phase 1 Assessments ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer 2025: July 18–31 • September and October: last 5 school days of the month • Fall 2025: Testing Window: school specified 5-day window • Spring 2026 Testing Window: school specified 5-day window • March: last 10 school days of the month • Summer 2026: July 17–30
9–12	End-of-Course (EOC) Tests for Biology, English II, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final 5 instructional days of the semester • Final 10 instructional days of yearlong course • Final 5 instructional days of the summer school course
9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIDA ACCESS • WIDA Alternate ACCESS 	Test Window: January 12–March 13, 2026
9–12	ACT WorkKeys	Fall 2025: October 20–December 5, 2025 Spring 2026: February 17–March 27, 2026
10	PreACT (Paper and Online Testing)	October 13–November 20, 2025
10	College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment (CCRAA) at Grade 10	
10	NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessment for English II, Biology, and NC Math 1 at Grade 10	Final 10 instructional days of the school year

¹The decision to administer a required assessment must be based on eligibility requirements.²Grades 6–8 for high school courses offered in middle school.

Grades 9–12¹ (continued)		
Grade Level	Test	Test Date
11	The ACT – Paper Testing Standard Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Date 1: February 24, 2026 • Test Date 2: March 10, 2026 • Test Date 3: March 24, 2026
11	The ACT – Paper Testing Accommodations Windows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Window 1: February 24–27 and March 2–6, 2026 • Test Window 2: March 10–13 and March 16–20, 2026 • Test Window 3: March 24–27, March 30–31, and April 1–3, 2026
11	The ACT – Online Testing Standard & Accommodations Windows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Test Window 1: February 24–27 and March 2–6, 2026 • Online Test Window 2: March 10–13 and March 16–20, 2026 • Online Test Window 3: March 24–27, March 30–31, and April 1–3, 2026
11	College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment (CCRAA) at Grade 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Window 1: February 24–27 and March 2–6, 2026 • Test Window 2: March 10–13 and March 16–20, 2026 • Test Window 3: March 24–27, March 30–31, and April 1–3, 2026
11	NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessment at Grade 11	

¹The decision to administer a required assessment must be based on eligibility requirements.

NAEP ³		
Grade Level or Age	Test	Test Date
Grades 4 and 8	NAEP 2026 Reading and Mathematics	Test Window: January 26—March 20, 2026
Grade 8	Civics and US History	
Grades 4, 8, 12	Pilot: NAEP 2026 New items for future operational assessments	
Grades 4, 8, 12	Pilot: NAEP 2026 <i>Mode Bridge Study: School Devices v NAEP devices.</i>	

³Schools selected to participate in NAEP will be notified.