

NCSC AA-AAS

Overview of NCSC AA-AAS: Alternate Statewide Assessment in Reading, Writing, & Mathematics

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History of Alternate Assessment in DC

- DC CAS ALT began in SY 2005-06 with assessments in Reading and Math
- The ALT Composition assessment was added in SY 2007-08
- The ALT Science assessment was added in SY 2008-09
- Transition to NCSC for Reading, Writing, and Math in SY 2014-15 (On Demand)
- Continue DC CAS ALT Science in SY 2014-15

DC's Work with NCSC Consortium:

- Joined the National Center and State Collaborative at its inception as a fully participating state
- One of 14 Operational States for SY 2014-15
- Participated in NCSC pilots, including 140 DC students participating in NCSC Pilot 2

DC's ALT Assessments for SY 2014-15

Assessment	Important Dates
NCSC AA-AAS <i>(On Demand)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration: February (TBD) • Training: begins March 9th • Administration: March 30th - May 15th
DC CAS ALT-Science <i>(Portfolio)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration: February 6th • Training: Week of February 23rd • Portfolios Close: March 6th • Portfolios Shipped: March 13th



District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education
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National Center and State Collaborative Alternate Assessment based on Alternate Achievement Standards (NCSC AA-AAS)

- To ensure that students with significant cognitive disabilities are able to participate in an assessment that is a measure of what they know in relation to the grade-level Common Core State Standards (CCSS).
- NCSC's AA-AAS is a component of a system of curriculum, instruction, and professional development that allows students with the most significant cognitive disabilities to access grade-level content aligned to the CCSS.
- NCSC's long-term goal is to ensure that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities achieve increasingly higher academic outcomes and graduate from high school capable of pursuing post-secondary options. A well-designed summative assessment alone is insufficient to achieve that goal.
- The NCSC AA-AAS is designed to meet the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These laws mandate that all students participate in assessments that measure grade-level content standards.

Students who have been determined eligible by their IEP team for participation in their state's AA-AAS are eligible to participate in the NCSC AA-AAS.

Table 6. Participation Criteria

Participation Criteria	Participation Criteria Descriptors
1. The student has a significant cognitive disability	Review of student records indicate a disability or multiple disabilities that significantly impact intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior. <i>*Adaptive behavior is defined as essential for someone to live independently and to function safely in daily life.</i>
2. The student is learning content linked to (derived from) the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)	Goals and instruction listed in the IEP for this student are linked to the enrolled grade-level CCSS and address knowledge and skills that are appropriate and challenging for this student.
3. The student requires extensive direct individualized instruction and substantial supports to achieve measureable gains in the grade- and age-appropriate curriculum	The student (a) requires extensive, repeated, individualized instruction and support that is not of a temporary or transient nature, and (b) uses substantially adapted materials and individualized methods of accessing information in alternative ways to acquire, maintain, generalize, demonstrate, and transfer skills across multiple settings.

Test Coordinators (TC)

- The District Test Coordinator (DTC) provides oversight of the NCSC AA-AAS at the district level. The School Test Coordinator (STC) works within the school building to ensure the NCSC AA-AAS is administered as intended and that the TAs and students have the support needed for a successful administration.
- In some schools and districts, the DTC and the STC may share the duties or even be the same person.
- TCs complete essential tasks that are required before, during, and after administration of the NCSC AA-AAS.

Test Administrators (TA)

Who can be a TA?

- A certified and licensed educator familiar with the student, typically the student’s teacher, who has completed the required NCSC Online Test Administration Training for Test Administrators, end-of-module quizzes, and the end-of-training final quiz with an 80% accuracy score, can administer the NCSC AA-AAS.
- If a student’s teacher has a long-term substitute who is a certified and licensed educator and has completed the required NCSC Online Test Administration Training, end-of-module quizzes, and the end-of-training final quiz with an 80% accuracy score, then the long-term substitute can administer the NCSC AA-AAS.

Who cannot be a TA?

- It is NCSC policy that paraprofessionals, teachers’ aides and other support staff, or student teachers cannot administer the NCSC AA-AAS.

English Language Arts (Reading And Writing) Test Forms			
Item Type	Grade	Content	Item Delivery
Selected-Response	Students taking Grades 3-8 & 11 tests	Reading and Writing	Computer-administered Items
Open-Response	Students taking Grades 3-4 tests	Reading	Computer-administered Items
Constructed-Response	Students taking Grades 3-8 & 11 tests	Writing	Computer-administered Items

Mathematics Test

Item Type	Grade	Item Delivery
Selected-Response	Students taking Grades 3-8 & 11 tests	Computer-administered Items
Constructed-Response	Students taking Grades 3-5, 8 & 11 tests	Computer-administered Items

Documents Needed for NCSC AA-AAS Administration

Documents	Purpose	Location	User
Test Administration Manual (TAM)	Provides policies and procedures for TAs and TCs to prepare for the administration of the NCSC AA-AAS.	https://teacher-ncscpartners.ctb.com	TAs and TCs
Directions for Test Administration (DTA) Note: The DTAs are secure documents	Each test form has a specific DTA that provides directions and a script to administer each item of the NCSC AA-AAS. <u>TAs must follow these directions and script exactly.</u> DTAs include the allowable manipulatives and reference materials for specific items, and scoring rubrics for mathematics constructed response items and the open-response reading foundational items for grade 3 and 4 tests.	https://teacher-ncscpartners.ctb.com	TA DTAs are only available to the TA upon successful completion of the NCSC Test Administration Training.
NCSC Assessment System User Guide for Test Administrators and NCSC Assessment System User Guide for Test Coordinators	Provides information to access and navigate the NCSC Assessment System.	https://teacher-ncscpartners.ctb.com	TAs and TCs

Test Administration Manual

- Overview of the NCSC-AA-AAS
 - Description of the Test, item types
 - Help Desk
- Responsibilities of the TA and TC
 - Training requirements
 - Assessment Features and Accommodations
 - Testing Integrity
- Administration of the NCSC-AA-AAS
 - Before, During, and After Test Administration
 - Appendices

What is the content of the *Directions for Test Administration (DTA)*?

The contents of the DTA include:

- General directions for administering the test
- Guidelines regarding allowable methods for item presentation
- Guidance on printed materials
- Procedures and guidelines for preparing, administering, and scoring constructed-response items
- Specific directions for administering each item on the test
- Reference Sheets and stimulus materials used to administer each item
- List of manipulatives (mathematics only) that will be needed to administer the test (e.g., calculator, counting tiles, scratch paper)

User Guides for TCs and TAs

- Access NCSC Assessment System
- Before Test Required Steps
- After Test Required Steps
- Administer and Navigate the Pilot 2 Test

NCSC AA-AAS Training Requirements:

- Complete all Modules within the “NCSC Online Test Administration Training” for your specific role
- Refer to required materials
- Test Administrators complete Final Quiz with 80% accuracy
- Complete end-of-training evaluation

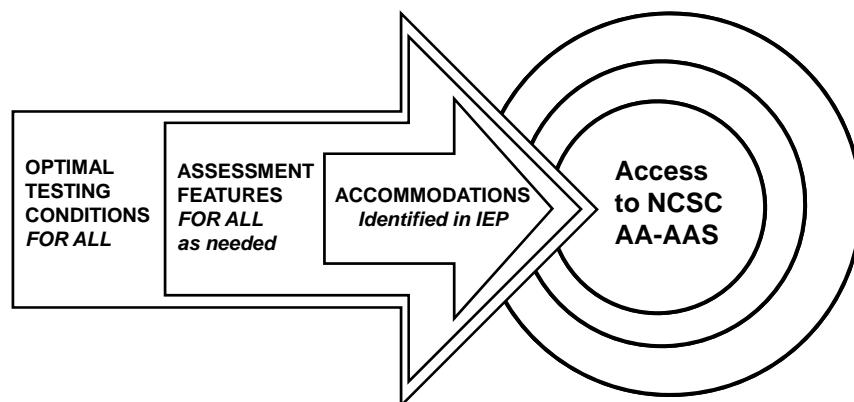
After completing the training, participants will be knowledgeable in the steps to administer and/or oversee the administration of the NCSC AA-AAS.

What are testing integrity and appropriate test practices?

Aspects of testing integrity, appropriate, and inappropriate test practices include:

- Maintaining testing integrity and appropriate test practices
- Handling test materials in a secure manner
- Preparing a secure testing environment
- Recognizing inappropriate test practices
- Monitoring and reporting inappropriate test practices

NCSC AA-AAS Accessibility



What are assessment features?

Assessment Features support student access to the test and are either

- (a) built into the NCSC Assessment System,
- (b) typically available on a computer, and
- (c) enabled by the student or TA at the time of testing, or
- (d) provided by the TA

NCSC User Guide for Test Administrators explains how to enable them during the test.

What assessment features are available?

NCSC Assessment Features
Answer Masking
Audio Player
Alternate Color Themes
Increase Size of Text and Graphics
Increase Volume
Line Reader Tool
Read Aloud and Reread Item Directions, Response Options, Passage

What Accommodations may be used for NCSC AA-AAS?

Accommodations	How to Access
Assistive Technology (AT) Student may use assistive technology devices for viewing, responding to, or interacting with the test items. The student and TA should use the AT device with the sample items to ensure that it functions properly with the NCSC Assessment System. The NCSC Assessment System supports various AT devices, such as alternate keyboard, switches and hub, head mouse, etc.	Refer to NCSC Assessment System User Guide for Test Administrators for information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatibility of NCSC Assessment System with Assessment Features and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatibility of NCSC Assessment System with Assistive Technology Devices.
Paper Version of Item/s	TA may print a copy of an item or items. This copy must be given to the TC, as specified by the state, for secure shredding upon completion of the test. Large print forms are not available. Please refer to the NCSC Assessment System User Guide for Test Administrators for directions to use the assessment feature, Increase Size of Text and Graphics.
Scribe/Transcription Selected-Response Items Writing Test Constructed-Response Items	Refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix B. Protocol for Administration of Writing Constructed-Response Items • Appendix C. National Center and State Collaborative Scribe Protocol for ELA, Mathematics, and Writing • Appendix D. National Center and State Collaborative Augmentative and Alternative Communication Guidelines for Writing Constructed-Responses
Sign Language (e.g., ASL, PSE, SEE)	TA may provide sign language interpretation to student

NCSC AA-AAS Test Schedule

Activity	Participants	Draft Dates
Required NCSC Online Test Administration Training for Test Administrators (TAs) and Test Coordinators (TCs)	TAs and TCs	March 9 - May 15, 2015
NCSC AA-AAS Test Administration	TAs Eligible Students	March 30 - May 15, 2015