

Nevada's Science Assessments

Overview of Nevada's Science Assessments

In 2014, Nevada adopted the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Science (NVACSS), based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Nevada's Science Assessments reflect a new alignment to the NVACSS. Item development and field testing of the new items took place during 2015-2016 school year. Spring of 2017 was the first time that students took this newly aligned science assessment and those results were used to determine cut scores and performance levels of achievement.

Questions and Answers

Who takes the Science Assessments?

All Nevada students in grades 5, 8, and High School must participate in the Science Assessments.

What content areas are assessed?

For grades 5 and 8, science assessment items will represent a blending of Life, Physical, Earth Sciences, and integrated relevant science practices and concepts. For the High School Science Assessment items will focus on Life Sciences and integrated relevant science practices and concepts.

When are the Science Assessments given?

Grades 5, 8, and High School assessments are given during the spring each year. Please speak with your student's school for more detailed information regarding testing dates.

What is the test design?

The Science Assessments are administered at schools once a year as a computer-based test. Paper versions of the test are available to students who require certain accommodations. For grades 5 and 8, students will respond to both multiple choice and constructed response item types (some enhanced by online technology). For High School, students will respond to multiple choice item types (some enhanced by online technology).

What is the approximate testing time?

The Science Assessment has an approximate testing time of two hours. The Science Assessment is intended to be a measure of student proficiency rather than speed. Students who are working productively will be given time to complete the test.

How will scores be reported?

The Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) will score and report results of the Science Assessments to the State and school districts directly. Parents and guardians will then be informed by the district. Student score reports will include an overall scale score and achievement level, in addition to detailed sub-score information aligned with specific reporting categories. State and individual school results are also available on nevadareportcard.com.

Where can I find more information?

- [Nevada State Science Assessments Webpage](#)
- [Nevada Academic Content Standards for Science \(NVACSS\)](#)
- [Assessment Results](#)

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