

# Nevada State Assessment System

---

**Peter Zutz**

**Office of Assessment, Data, and  
Accountability Management (ADAM)**



# Federal and State Law

- Federal: Public Law 114-95 or The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
  - States must test all students on statewide assessments in the following areas: reading/language arts and math every year in grades three through eight and once in high school; and science once between grades three and five, once between six and nine, and once again in high school.
  - These tests are additionally mandated by NRS 390.105, NRS 390.610, NRS 390.820
- State: NRS 388.157
  - Mandates the assessment of student's reading proficiency in Kindergarten through third grade.

## NRS Requiring SBE Participation in Statewide Assessment Selection

- **High School Equivalency** - NRS 390.055 **SBE 'selects'**: *The State Board shall select an assessment which enables a person who satisfies the requirements of subsection...*
- **CRT/Summative** (math, ELA, Science) - NRS 390.105, **SBE 'prescribes'**: *...State Board shall, in consultation with the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools, prescribe examinations that comply...*
- **CCR** - NRS 390.610, **SBE 'selects'**: *The State Board shall select a college and career readiness assessment for administration to pupils who are enrolled in grade 11 in public high schools.*
- **ELPA** - NRS 390.810, **SBE 'prescribes'** ...3. The State Board shall prescribe an assessment of proficiency in the English language for pupils who are English learners to measure oral language skills, comprehension skills, reading skills and writing skills. The board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school shall administer the assessment annually at the time prescribed by the State Board. A pupil who takes the assessment prescribed pursuant to this subsection is not exempt from the achievement and proficiency examinations administered pursuant to this chapter.
- **RBG3** - NRS 388.157, **SBE 'approves'** ...(b) Procedures for assessing a pupil's proficiency in the subject area of reading using valid and reliable standards-based assessments that have been approved by the State Board...

# Federally Reported Assessments

# Grades 3-8 Criterion Reference Tests (CRT)

- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortia (SBAC)
- Mandated by ESSA & NRS 390.105
- Summative Assessment for School Accountability
- The Smarter Balanced Summative assessment offers a computer-adaptive (CAT) section and performance tasks that assess student proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and math.
- Administered since the 2015-2016 school year
- The Smarter Balanced Interim assessments are also available for school and district use.

# Nevada Science

- Created and maintained by Nevada Department of Education in partnership with Nevada educators
- Mandated by ESSA & NRS 390.105
- Summative Assessment for School Accountability
- Standards-based science test that assesses student proficiency in science. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade assessments are based on Nevada Science Standard domains of Earth/Space Science, Physical Science, and Life Science. The high school assessment is focused primarily on Life Science.
- Administered in its current form since the 2017-2018 school year

# ACT plus Writing

- Selected by the Nevada Board of Education as the College and Career Readiness Assessment in 2015, becoming the federally reported assessment for high school math and English Language Arts (ELA) in 2018
- Mandated by ESSA & NRS 390.610
- High School assessment for School Accountability
- Multi-mode college- and career-readiness assessment provides data regarding student proficiency in math, reading, and writing.

# Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA)

- Administered to students with significant cognitive and developmental challenges.
- Mandated by ESSA and NRS 390.820
- Summative Assessment for School Accountability
- One-on-one staff-administered summative assessment assesses student proficiency in reading and math in grades 3-8 and 11; and science in grades 5, 8, and 11.
- The USED placed a one percent (1%) cap on the number of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who may annually participate in a state's alternate assessment.
- Administered in its current form since the 2017-2018 school year



# WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS

- Students who have been identified by their local schools and/or districts as English Learners
- Mandated by ESSA and NRS 390.810
- English Learner Summative Assessment for School Accountability
- Assesses student proficiency in English reading, writing, listening, and speaking and supports the identification of individual student needs .
- WIDA Alternate ACCESS is an English Learner assessment designed for students with significant cognitive and developmental challenges. The assessment is administered individually to a student.

# State Mandated Assessments

# Reading Grades K-3

- NWEA MAP Growth
- The reading assessment is used to assess progress toward the goal stated in SB 391 and codified in NRS 388.157 of identifying and supporting students with a deficiency in reading.
- Mandated by NRS 388.157
- Diagnostic/Formative Assessment used for Read-by-Grade-3 identification
- Administered since the 2017-2018 school year

# Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA)

- Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG GOLD)
- Kindergarten entry assessments are designed to evaluate a child's readiness and skills before they start kindergarten. These assessments serve several important goals: readiness evaluation, identifying additional needs or supports, informing instructions, communication with families, and data collection.
- Designed to support each child's successful transition into formal schooling and ensure they receive the appropriate support and resources they need to thrive academically and socially.
- Administered no earlier than 15 calendar days prior to the start of school or within 45 instructional days of the start of the school year.

# NAEP

# National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

- Federally-identified representative sample populations in grades 4, 8, and 12, from schools and districts across the state.
- Mandated by PL 107-279 & NRS 390.830
- Referred to as the Nation's Report Card
- The National Assessment of Educational Progress is a federally-sponsored continuing and nationally representative assessment of student performance, identifying proficiency in content areas including, but not limited to reading, mathematics, science, writing, and U.S. history.
- Representative samples of students are selected from within individual school populations. From selected schools, only a small portion of students will be identified for this assessment designed to generalize proficiency data statewide and nationally.

# Overview: The Nevada State Assessment System

	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
KEA	█													
MAP		█	█	█	█									
Smarter					█	█	█	█	█	█				
Science							█			█		█		
ACT													█	
NAA					█	█	█	█	█	█			█	
WIDA		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

# Thank You.

For additional information, please contact:

Mike Pacheco

Education Program Supervisor, Assessment

[mpacheco@doe.nv.gov](mailto:mpacheco@doe.nv.gov)



# Nevada State System of Assessments

All Students					
Test Name:	KEA	MAP Reading	SBAC	Science	ACT plus Writing
Grades Administered:	PK-K	K-3	3-8	5, 8, & High School	11
Requirement:	NRS 388.157	NRS 388.157	PL 114-95 (ESSA) & NRS 390.105	PL 114-95 (ESSA) & NRS 390.105	PL 114-95 (ESSA) & NRS 390.610
Schedule:	Early Fall	Kinder: Winter & Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> : Fall, Winter, Spring	Late Spring	Late Spring	Early Spring
Intended Purpose:	Diagnostic/Intake Read-by-Grade-3	Diagnostic/Formative Read-by-Grade-3	Standardized/Summative School Accountability	Standardized/Summative School Accountability	Standardized/Summative School Accountability
General Overview:	Designed to assess school readiness, this one-time intake screener may also identify potential developmental delays and early signs of giftedness.	The reading assessment from Measures of Academic Progress is used to assess progress toward the goal stated in SB 391 of identifying and supporting students with a deficiency in reading.	Smarter Balanced Summative assessment offers computer-adaptive and performance tasks that assess student proficiency in ELA and math, to provide data to identify and support struggling schools and systems.	Standards-based science test assesses student proficiency in science to provide data to identify and support struggling schools and systems.	Multi-mode college- and career-readiness assessment provides data regarding student proficiency in math, reading, and writing, to identify and support struggling schools and systems.
Additional Notes:	Schools and districts may use this screener as a formative assessment tool if desired, at the direction and discretion of the administration and/or local governing body of said school or district.	Schools and districts may use additional assessments offered by NWEA-MAP as a formative assessment tool if desired, at the direction and discretion of the administration and/or local governing body of each school or district.	The Smarter Balanced Interim assessment is also available for school and/or district use as a formative assessment tool, at the direction and discretion of the administration and/or local governing body of each school or district.	5 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade assessments are based on NGSS domains of Earth/Space Science, Physical Science, and Life Science. The high school assessment is focused primarily on Life Science.	For accountability purposes, state-sponsored (free-to-students) testing will occur on the same dates for all schools. Additional retakes may be utilized by individual students but will not be paid by the state or used for school accountability.

## Select Populations

Test Name:	Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA)	WIDA ACCESS	WIDA Alternate ACCESS	NAEP	CTE
Population:	Students with significant cognitive and developmental challenges that prohibit or significantly hinder access to general assessments.	Students who have been identified by their local schools and/or districts as English Learners.	English Learners with significant cognitive and developmental challenges that prohibit or significantly hinder access to the WIDA ACCESS.	Federally-identified representative sample populations in grades 4, 8, and 12, from schools and districts across the state.	Students in Career and Technical Education programs.
Requirement:	PL 114-95 (ESSA) & NRS 390.820	PL 114-95 (ESSA) & NRS 390.810	PL 114-95 (ESSA) & NRS 390.810, 390.820	P.L. 107-279 & NRS 390.830	NRS 388.380 & NAC 389.800
Schedule:	Late Spring	Late Winter	Late Winter	Late Winter	Program-Specific Dates
Intended Purpose:	Standardized/Summative School Accountability	Standardized/Summative School Accountability	Standardized/Summative School Accountability	Standardized/Summative Federal Accountability	Skills-Based/Summative Program Proficiency
General Overview:	One-on-one staff-administered summative assessment assesses student proficiency in reading and math in grades 3-8 and 11, and science in grades 5, 8, and 11, in order to provide data to identify and support struggling schools and systems.	Annual English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) assesses student proficiency in English reading, writing, listening, and speaking, identifying individual student needs and providing data to identify and support struggling schools and systems.	One-on-one staff-administered ELPA assesses student proficiency in English reading, writing, listening, and speaking, identifying individual student needs and providing data to identify and support struggling schools and systems.	The National Assessment of Educational Progress is a federally-sponsored continuing and nationally representative assessment of student performance, identifying proficiency in content areas including, but not limited to reading, mathematics, science, writing, and U.S. history.	The Workplace Readiness Skills Assessment measures student proficiency in the Employability Skills for Career Readiness state standards. The End-of-Program Technical Assessments measure program-specific skill attainment.
Additional Notes:	This alternate assessment is designed to serve less than 1% of students statewide, offering support and accountability for programs that serve the most severely challenged students in Nevada, and <b>replaces the SBAC and Science</b> assessments for those students.	The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 requires annual assessment for all students designated Limited English Proficient (LEP). This test <b>does not replace</b> SBAC and Science assessments.	This alternate assessment is designed to serve less than 1% of LEP students statewide (students who also take the NAA), supporting language acquisition for our most challenged students. This test <b>replaces the WIDA ACCESS</b> for those students.	Representative samples of students are selected from within individual school populations. From selected schools, only a small portion of students will be identified for this assessment designed to generalize proficiency data statewide and nationally.	This assessment certifies whether students in CTE programs have skills necessary for their designated trade, and are requirements for completion of their corresponding programs.