

# NCSC Alternate Assessment Overview

Yvonne M. Field, Assessment Specialist, OPI

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What is NCSC?

# National Center and State Collaborative: Organization Partners



The [National Center on Educational Outcomes \(NCEO\)](#) is the fiscal host for NCSC and leads the management team, technical advisory committee, and all project management functions.



The [Center For Assessment](#) leads the summative assessment team and will provide content and assessment design expertise across the other curricular/instructional resources and capacity building teams.



The [University of North Carolina at Charlotte](#) leads the curricular/instructional resources team while providing severe disabilities, content, and curricular development expertise to the summative assessment and capacity building teams.



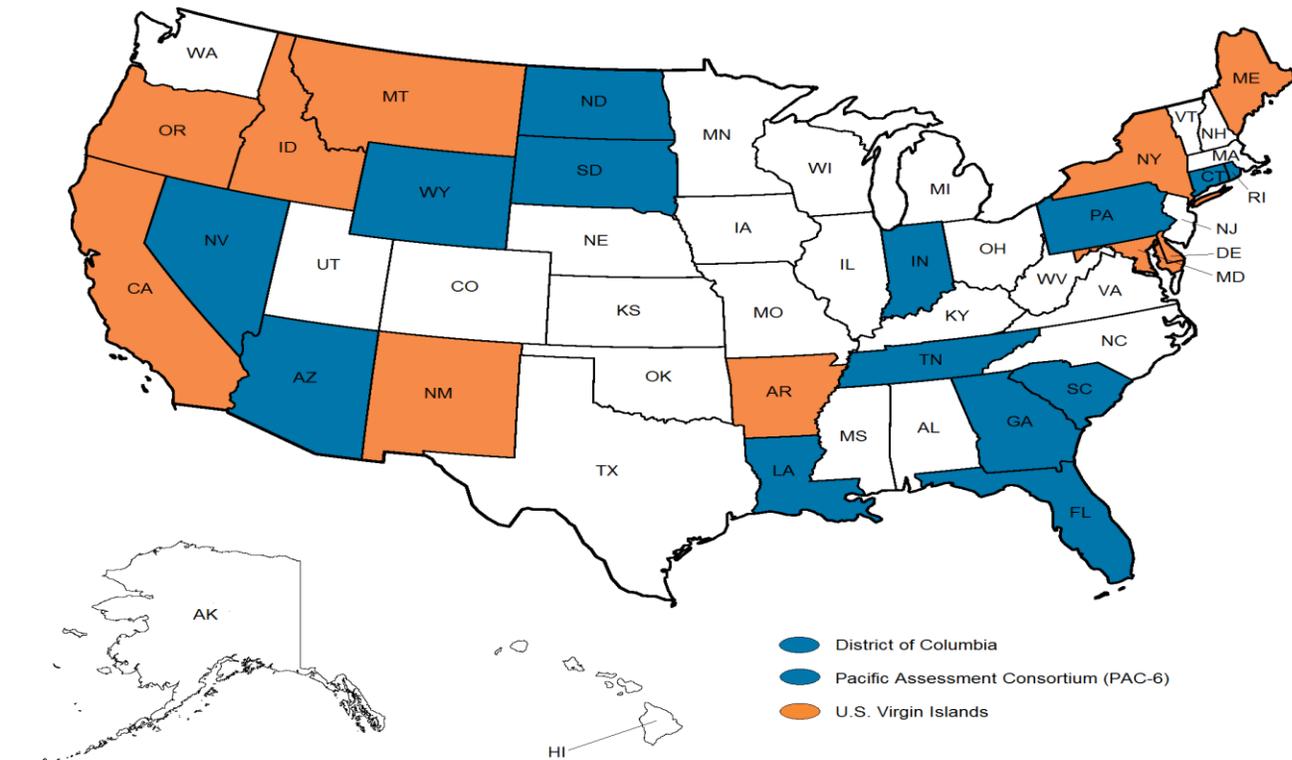
The [University of Kentucky](#) leads the capacity building team and provides expertise in severe disabilities, communication strategies, and learner characteristics to the other teams.



[edCount, LLC](#) leads the validity evaluation work providing formative and summative validity evaluation findings and feedback to each team and project management. Additionally, edCount provides direct oversight to the external project evaluator and hosts the vendor contracts for the components of assessment implementation.

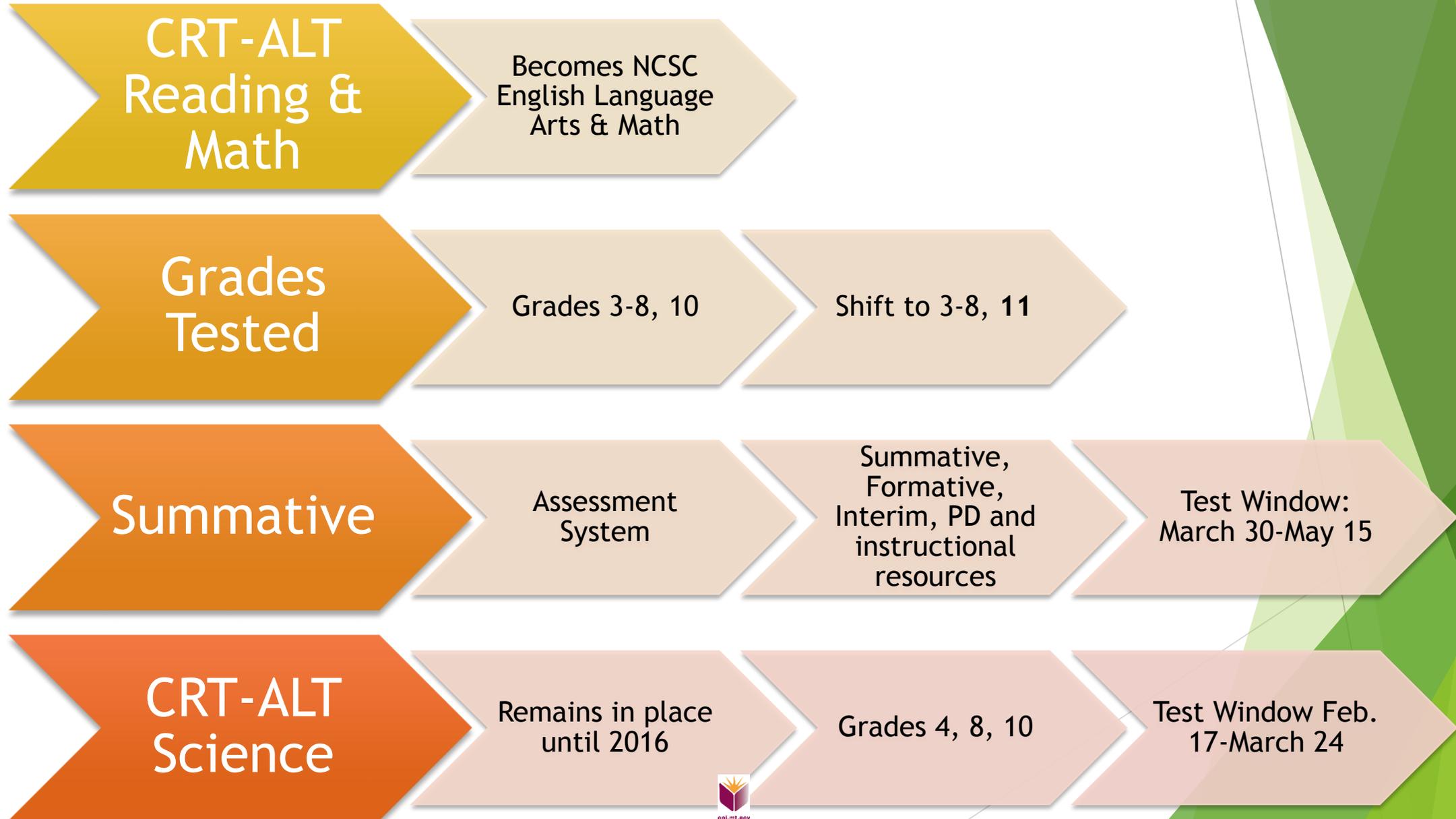


# National Center and State Collaborative: State Partners

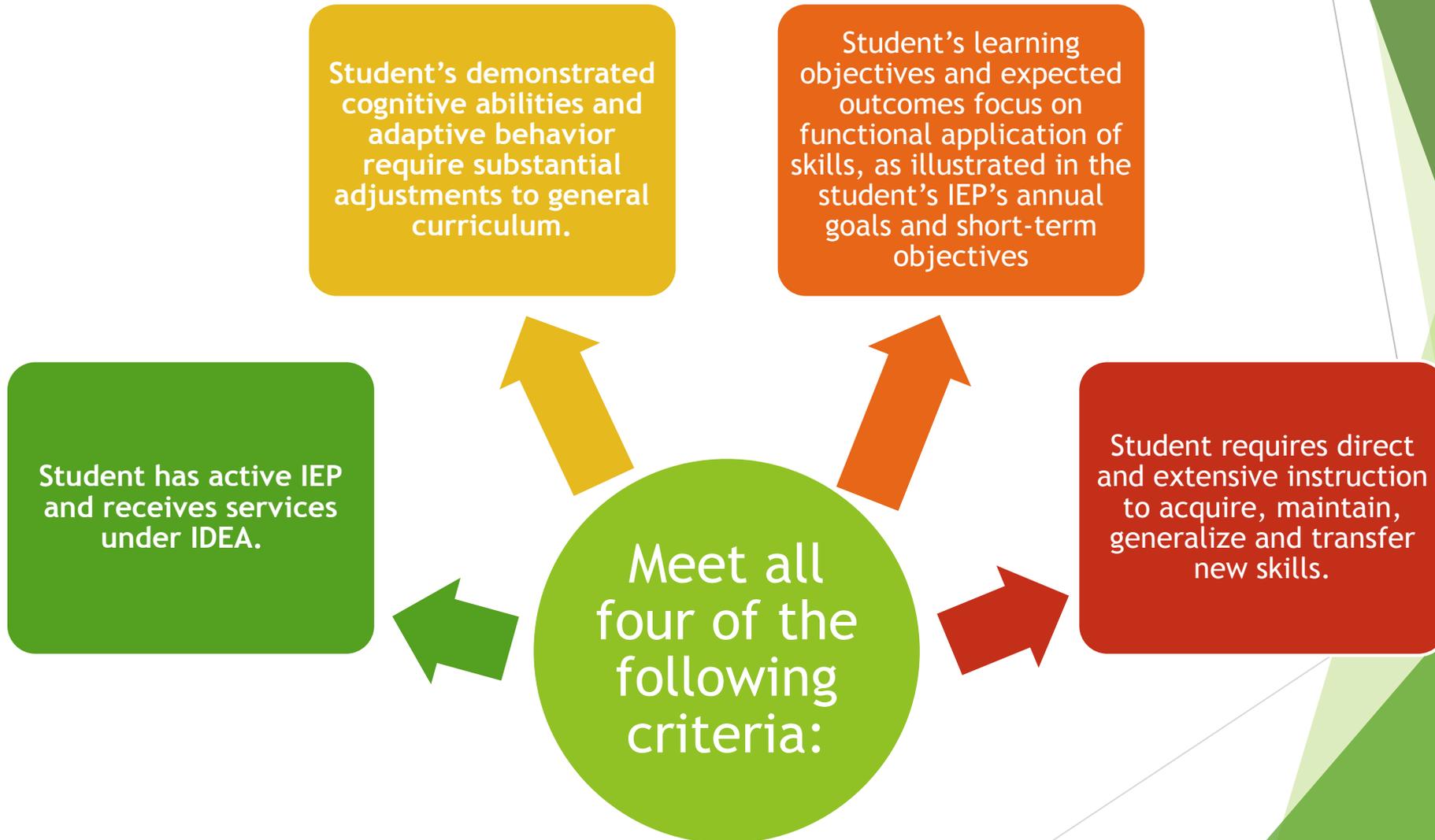


\*Core partner states are blue in color and Tier II states are orange in color.

# Alternate Assessment Transitions:



# Montana's CRT-ALT Participation Criteria



# A Comprehensive System



Beginning of year

End of year

NCSC Wiki, LMS, and Test Administration Portal: collection of curriculum, instruction, and classroom assessment resources; online professional development modules and support materials for state-level educator Communities of Practice to support teachers with the resources they need to improved student outcomes; guidelines for IEP teams to use in student participate decision making; training modules for assessment administration and interpretation of results; online assessment delivery, administration, and reporting.

Content prepared by the Center for K-12 Assessment & Performance Management at ETS



# The Core Content Connectors (CCCs)

Alternate Achievement Standards Aligned to the Common Core State  
Standards

# Core Content Connectors (CCCs)

9

- ▶ Using the learning progressions framework, NCSC identified the knowledge and skills from Common Core State Standards needed at each grade to make progress in later grades, but prioritized and simplified them to create the CCCs.
- ▶ The prioritized CCCs are the basis for the NCSC assessment but operate as a starting point for instruction based on the CCSS

The prioritized CCCs are a good place to start for instruction

# Core Content Connectors (CCCs)

Example:

**CCSS-** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**CCC-** Ask and answer questions\* about key details in a text.

\*Instead of an oral or written response, some students may use picture symbols, character figures and props, etc.

# College and Career Ready:

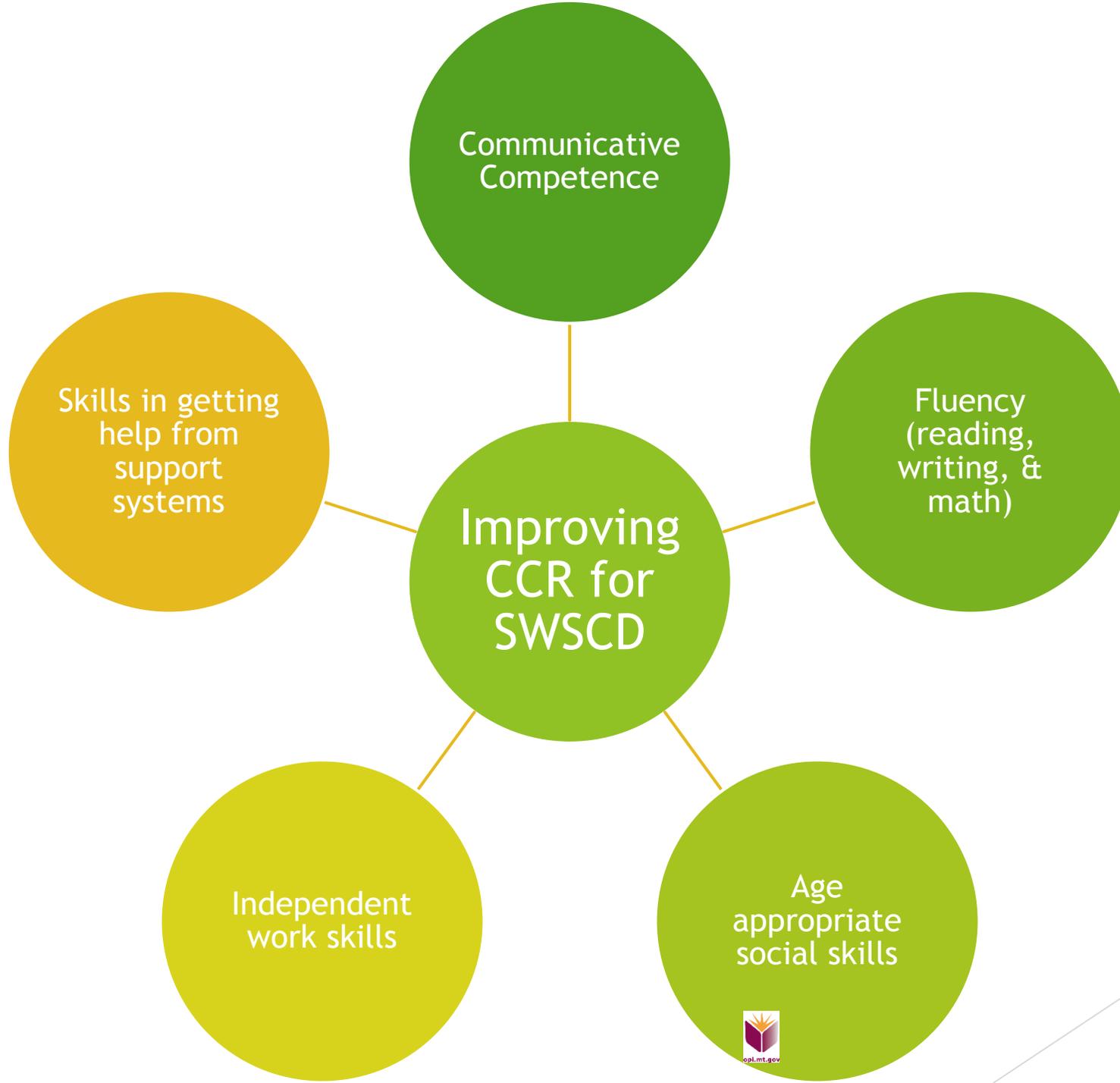
What does it mean for Students with  
Significant Cognitive Disabilities?

# A shift in focus:

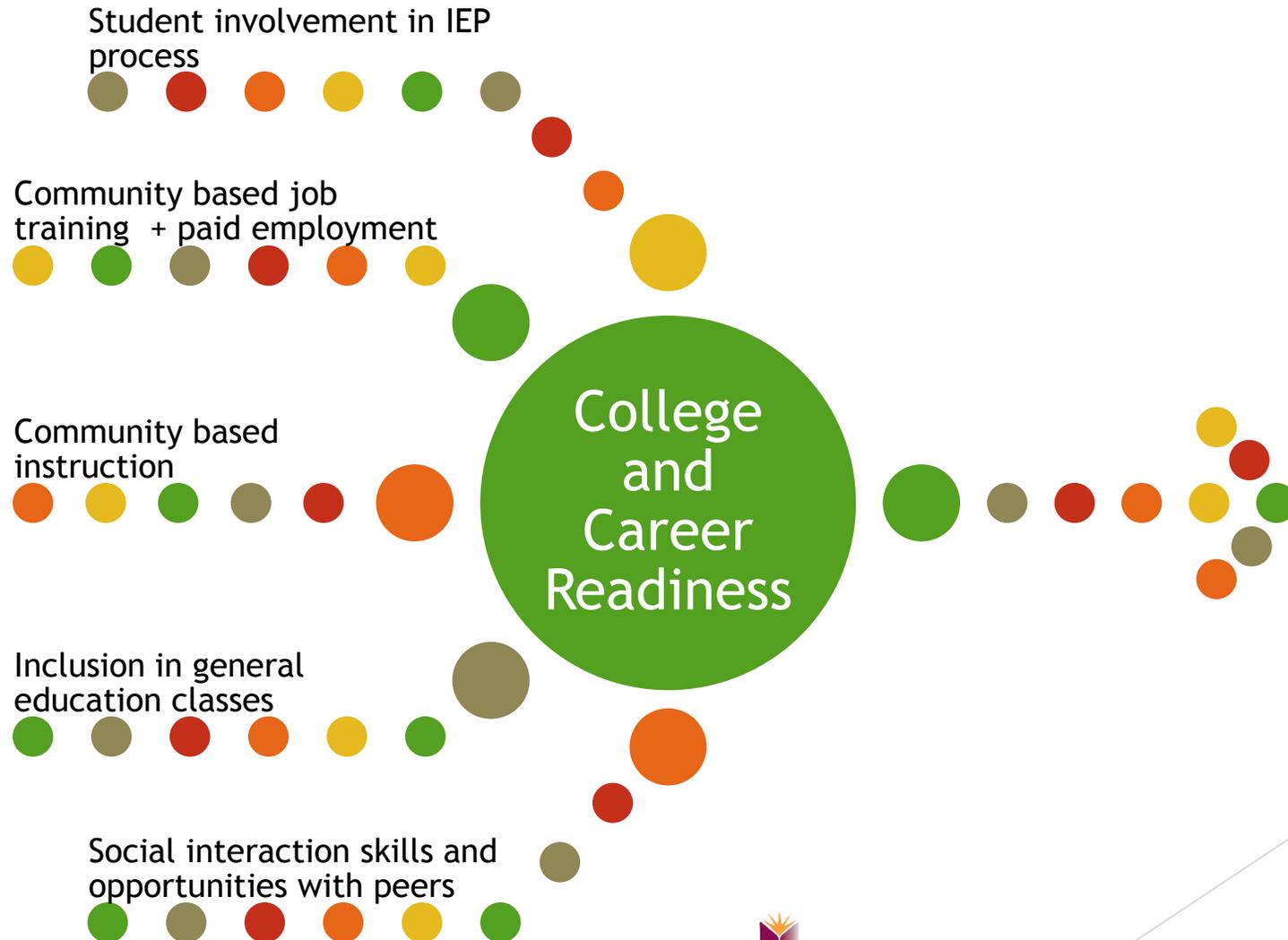
CCSS are based on the skills students need for success in post-secondary education and work

Focus of CCSS:  
College and  
Career Readiness

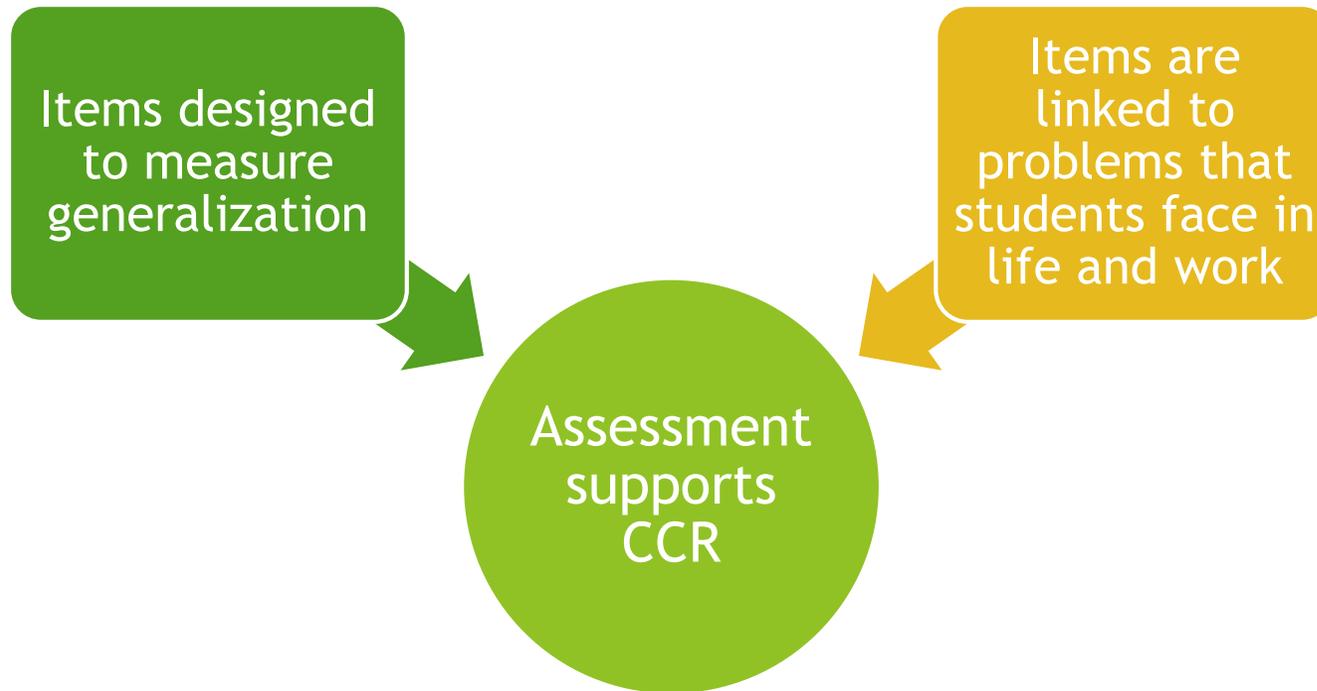
That has raised the question:  
What does College and Career Ready mean for SWSCD?



# Additional readiness skills not measured by the AA-AAS



# Relationship: Assessment to CCR



# Math Example

## ▶ Algebra Item

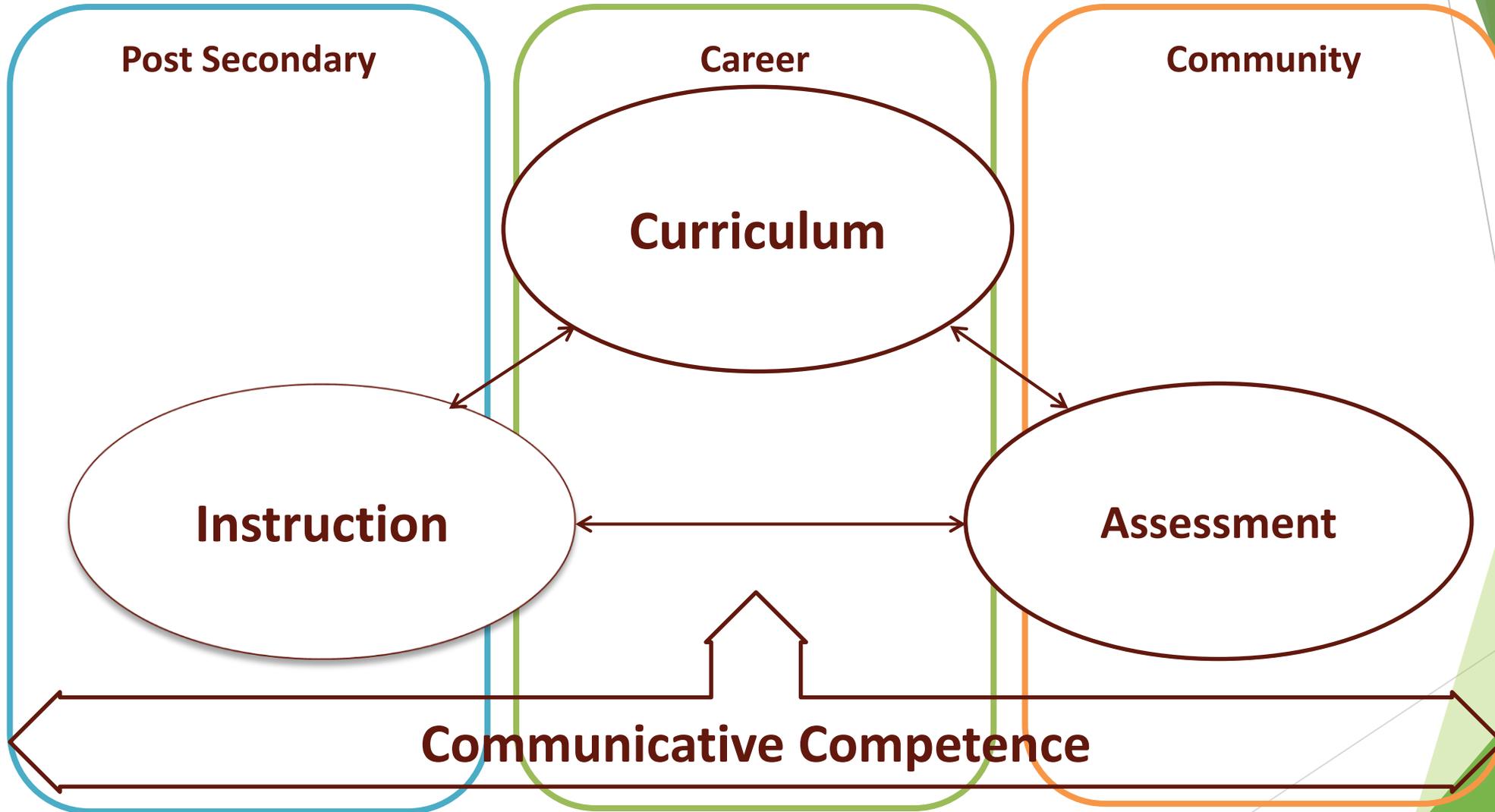
- ▶ Student calculates the money he would make, after pay for both transportation and lunch if he earned \$10 per hour for 6 hours.

# ELA Example

- ▶ Reading Item:
  - ▶ ask the student to read a story of how one student discussed career goals with family members and teachers.

# NCSC PD Framework

How it fits all fits together:



# NCSC Assessment

# Length of Assessment

- Expected testing time will be approximately 1.5 - 2 hours for each assessment (math and ELA)
- Each student's assessment can be completed in multiple smaller time slots over a 2 month period to meet the student's needs

# Format

- Approximately 35-40 total items for each subject.
- These items will cover approximately 10 CCCs
- Most of the assessment items ask the student to select the correct response (e.g. multiple choice).
- Some items will require the student to construct a response (e.g. write a short answer or use an alternate way to respond e.g. picture symbols)

## Use of Technology

- ▶ This will be an online testing program.
- ▶ Some students will use the online testing program directly on the computer.
- ▶ For other students, the teacher may print out testing materials and enter student responses into the computer.
- ▶ The assessment will have built-in supports to provide students with the opportunity to respond independently

# Relationship of Items to Grade Level Content

- About 75% of the assessment items are closely linked to the grade-level content
- About 25% are a farther link to the grade-level content to allow students who are just beginning to work with the academic content show what they know and can do
- In the first years of the new assessment many students will likely answer questions and do tasks that are less complex, but increase complexity as instruction improves

# Exceptional Circumstances

- ▶ There will be policies and criteria for dealing with rare situations where it may not be appropriate to administer or continue an assessment
- ▶ When these policies are used there will be requirements for data collection in order to flag the need for interventions to address unmet instructional needs (e.g., related services or instructional supports)

# Montana's NCSC Communities of Practice

Approximately 11 members representing: Higher Ed., assessment, special ed. directors, coops, special education teachers, and special service providers have created, presented, reviewed, participated and/or commented on the following:

- ▶ Webinars
- ▶ Professional Development materials
- ▶ Item reviews
- ▶ Training materials
- ▶ Implementation planning for Montana



Get Involved!

# NCSC Alternate Assessment Features and Accommodations

# NCSC Assessment Features

- ▶ Available to all students who participate in the NCSC Alternate Assessment
- ▶ Some are embedded in the online system.
  - ▶ Students and teachers can try embedded features using the sample items. (NCSC Assessment System site)
- ▶ Some assessment features are provided by the Test Administrator (TA)
- ▶ Some features are available via the browser or operating system.
- ▶ Some are embedded in the design of the test.



# Features

## Embedded

- Answer masking
- Audio player
- Alternate color themes
- Line reader tool
- *Magnification\**

## Test Administrator Provided

- Answer masking (paper versions)
- Read aloud
- Rereading item directions, response options, passages

## Browser

- Increase size of text and graphics
- Increase volume

## Operating System

- Alternate color themes
- Increase size of text and graphics
- Increase volume

# NCSC Accommodations

- ▶ Accommodations for the NCSC Alternate that need to be included in the IEP:
  - ▶ Assistive Technology for presentation of items to students
  - ▶ Assistive Technology for student response to items
  - ▶ Paper version of items
  - ▶ Scribe/Transcription
  - ▶ Sign Language (e.g. ASL, PSE, SEE)



# Assistive Technology (AT)

- ▶ Students may use a variety of AT devices to input responses for both:
  - ▶ Selected responses
  - ▶ Text based open responses
- ▶ Compatible AT Types
  - ▶ Text-to speech
  - ▶ Alternate keyboards
  - ▶ Switch-based navigation and answer selection
  - ▶ Eye-gaze
- ▶ Testing AT Devices
  - ▶ Test devices using the sample items to determine if a device will function properly with the assessment.

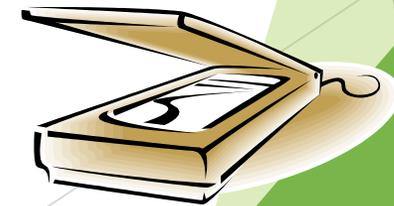
# Technology: NCSC

**Test Delivery Workstation Hardware and Software:** The test delivery system should align with the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) recommendations. The following represents the minimum hardware and software requirements of the test delivery workstation.

<b>Operating System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Windows Vista SP2, Windows 7, Windows 8</li><li>• OS X 10.4.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard), 10.6 (Snow Leopard), 10.7 (Lion), 10.8 (Mountain Lion), 10.9</li><li>• Linux is not supported</li></ul>
<b>Browser</b>	IE 9 or better; Firefox 24 or later; Chrome 26 or better; Opera 12 or better Safari 6 or better
<b>Monitor</b>	Screen resolution: 1024 x 768 or higher; screen size 9.5: inches or larger, color depth: high color, 16 bit millions;
<b>Other workstation requirements</b>	32 bit and 64 bit processors supported; disk space: 100 MB or more; Chromebook version 18 or better; any media will be played through native browser capabilities
<b>Evidence Collection</b>	Document scanner or Webcam (640 x 480 or better)
<b>Bandwidth</b>	1.5 Mbps dedicated or faster
<b>Flash</b>	Not required.

# Technology: NCSC Evidence Collection

- ▶ Evidence is collected for writing items when the student uses a paper version of the test and writes items themselves. (not required when the student has a scribe or when the student types directly into the computer).
- A webcam can be used to take a picture which is saved in the system, attached to the applicable item
- A scanner can also be used, a document is scanned and saved on the computer, then is uploaded to the online system.



# Accessing Information and Resources

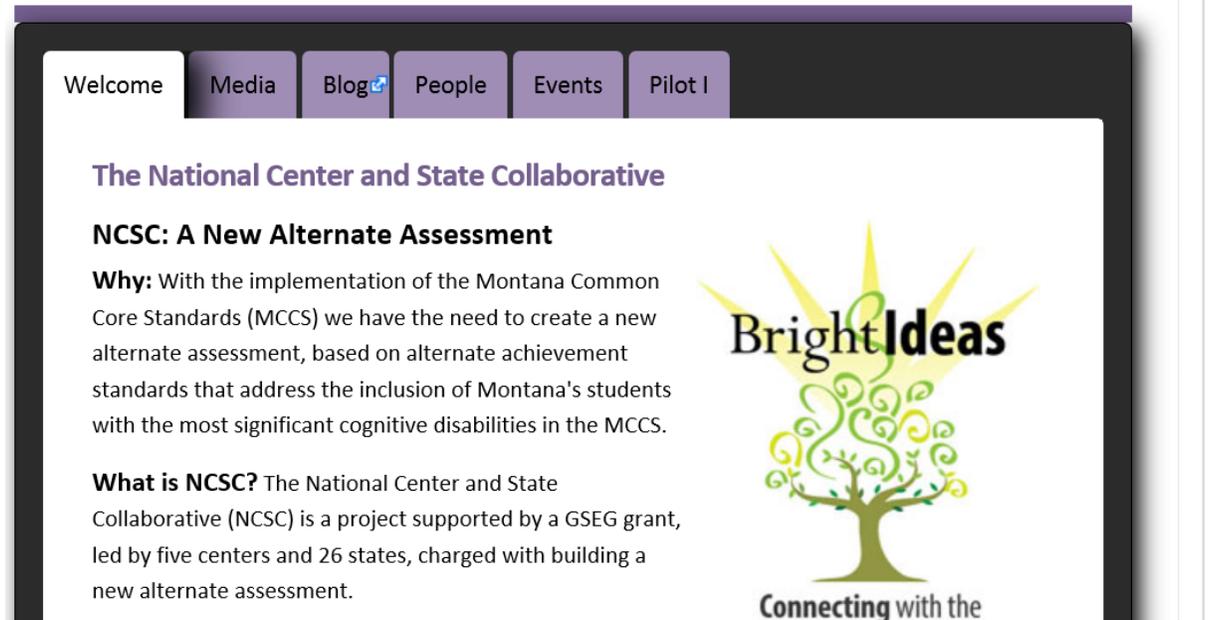
The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles and polygons of various shades, ranging from light lime green to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily concentrated on the right side of the frame, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The rest of the background is plain white.

# OPI Alternate Assessment Hub

- ▶ OPI Website
  - ▶ Basic Information about NCSC Alternate
  - ▶ Media
  - ▶ Blog
  - ▶ Community of Practice Members
  - ▶ Events
  - ▶ Pilot Information
  - ▶ Registration

## Alternate Assessment Hub...

NOTE: To find MCCS sequential planning resources, please visit [Getting Started](#).



Welcome | Media | Blog | People | Events | Pilot I

### The National Center and State Collaborative

#### NCSC: A New Alternate Assessment

**Why:** With the implementation of the Montana Common Core Standards (MCCS) we have the need to create a new alternate assessment, based on alternate achievement standards that address the inclusion of Montana's students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in the MCCS.

**What is NCSC?** The National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) is a project supported by a GSEG grant, led by five centers and 26 states, charged with building a new alternate assessment.

**Bright Ideas**  
Connecting with the

# NCSC Public Site

- ▶ Basic Project Information for the Public
- ▶ Multimedia
- ▶ Resources and Publications



National Center and State Collaborative

[Home](#)

[About](#) ▼

[Blog](#)

[Resources](#)

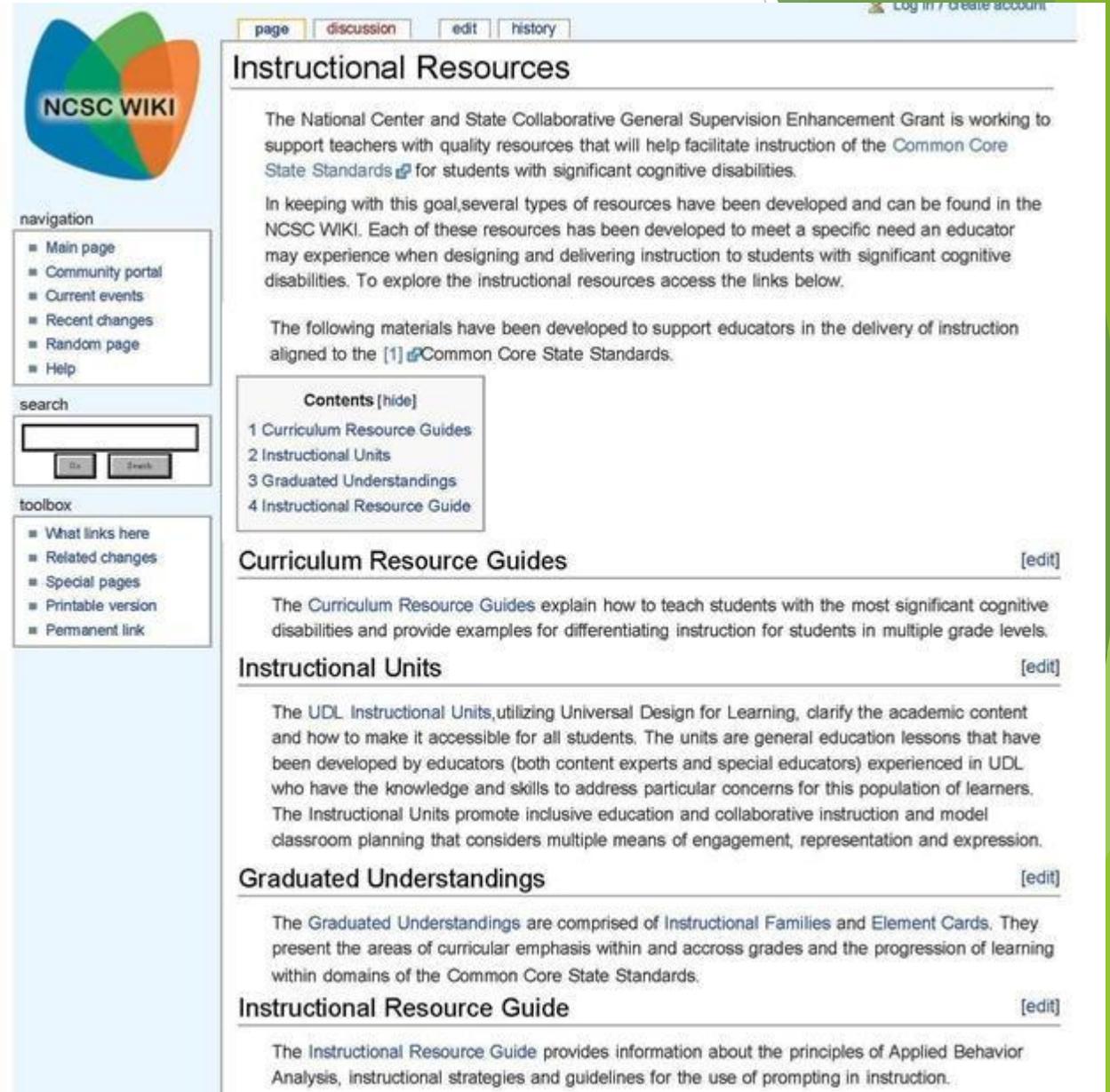
[Multimedia](#)

[News From The Field](#)

[Procurement](#)

# NCSC WIKI

All curriculum and instructional resources available at <https://wiki.ncscpartners.org>



The screenshot shows the NCSC Wiki page for "Instructional Resources". The page features a navigation menu on the left with links to Main page, Community portal, Current events, Recent changes, Random page, and Help. Below the navigation menu is a search box and a toolbox with links to What links here, Related changes, Special pages, Printable version, and Permanent link. The main content area is titled "Instructional Resources" and includes a paragraph about the National Center and State Collaborative General Supervision Enhancement Grant, a list of resources, and sections for Curriculum Resource Guides, Instructional Units, Graduated Understandings, and Instructional Resource Guide, each with an [edit] link.

**NCSC WIKI**

page discussion edit history

## Instructional Resources

The National Center and State Collaborative General Supervision Enhancement Grant is working to support teachers with quality resources that will help facilitate instruction of the Common Core State Standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

In keeping with this goal, several types of resources have been developed and can be found in the NCSC WIKI. Each of these resources has been developed to meet a specific need an educator may experience when designing and delivering instruction to students with significant cognitive disabilities. To explore the instructional resources access the links below.

The following materials have been developed to support educators in the delivery of instruction aligned to the [1] Common Core State Standards.

**Contents [hide]**

- 1 Curriculum Resource Guides
- 2 Instructional Units
- 3 Graduated Understandings
- 4 Instructional Resource Guide

### Curriculum Resource Guides [edit]

The Curriculum Resource Guides explain how to teach students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and provide examples for differentiating instruction for students in multiple grade levels.

### Instructional Units [edit]

The UDL Instructional Units, utilizing Universal Design for Learning, clarify the academic content and how to make it accessible for all students. The units are general education lessons that have been developed by educators (both content experts and special educators) experienced in UDL who have the knowledge and skills to address particular concerns for this population of learners. The Instructional Units promote inclusive education and collaborative instruction and model classroom planning that considers multiple means of engagement, representation and expression.

### Graduated Understandings [edit]

The Graduated Understandings are comprised of Instructional Families and Element Cards. They present the areas of curricular emphasis within and across grades and the progression of learning within domains of the Common Core State Standards.

### Instructional Resource Guide [edit]

The Instructional Resource Guide provides information about the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis, instructional strategies and guidelines for the use of prompting in instruction.

# NCSC Online Assessment System (Test Administration Portal)

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <https://teacher-ncscpartners.ctb.com/user>. The page header includes the NCSC logo (National Center and State Collaborative) and the text "NCSC Assessment System". Below the header, there are two buttons: "Log in" and "Request new password". The main heading is "Welcome, NCSC Visitor". The login form consists of two input fields: "E-mail" with the placeholder text "Enter your e-mail address." and "Password" with the placeholder text "Enter the password that accompanies your e-mail.". Below the password field is a "Log in" button. The footer is a dark blue bar containing three columns of links: "RESOURCES" (NCSC Home, About NCSC, Technology Requirements, Get Help, Sample Items), "OUR PARTNERS" (NCSC States, NCSC Partner Organizations), and a paragraph of text: "The National Center and State Collaborative's (NCSC) long-term goal is to ensure that students with significant cognitive disabilities achieve increasingly higher academic outcomes and leave high school ready for post-secondary options. For system help, please call 888-630-9145."

Welcome, NCSC Visitor

E-mail \*  
Enter your e-mail address.

Password \*  
Enter the password that accompanies your e-mail.

Log in

RESOURCES  
NCSC Home  
About NCSC  
Technology Requirements  
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Sample Items

OUR PARTNERS  
NCSC States  
NCSC Partner Organizations

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## Assessment Contacts:

Judy Snow | State Assessment Director | Montana Office of Public Instruction | 406-444-3656 | [jsnow@mt.gov](mailto:jsnow@mt.gov)

Yvonne Field | Assessment Specialist |  
Montana Office of Public Instruction | 406-444-0748 | [yfield@mt.gov](mailto:yfield@mt.gov)

Ashley Makowski | Administrative Assistant | Montana Office of Public Instruction | 406-444-3511 | [amakowski@mt.gov](mailto:amakowski@mt.gov)

Pam Birkeland | Special Projects | [pbirkeland@mt.gov](mailto:pbirkeland@mt.gov)

