



Welcome to *JUMP*, the OPI online assessment newsletter. *JUMP* is published several times during the year to announce important assessment and data events. It provides up-to-date information necessary for the administration of statewide assessments and the accompanying data collections.

In this issue:

- ◆ Pg. 1—NCSC Basics
- ◆ Pg. 1—NCSC Summative Assessment
- ◆ Pg. 2—Accommodations
- ◆ Pg. 2—Getting Ready

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MontCAS Special NCSC Alternate Update

Montana Comprehensive Assessment System

NCSC Alternate Assessment

The NCSC Alternate Assessment is based on Alternate Achievement Standards (AAS) developed from the Common Core State Standards. It is intended for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The NCSC Alternate Assessment will test students in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics and replaces the CRT-Alt Reading and Math Tests. (**NOTE:** Alternate students in grades 4, 8, and 10 will continue taking the CRT-Alt Science assessment.)

The NCSC Alternate Assessment System has three components: formative practices, interim assessments, and a summative assessment.

Test Window:

March 30-May 15, 2015

NCSC Summative Assessment

The NCSC Summative Assessment in ELA and Mathematics is required for students in grades 3-8, and 11 who [qualify for the alternate assessment](#). The assessment is administered online. Depending on students' individual needs, some students will interact directly with the computer while others will interact with printed materials prepared by the test administrator. The assessment has built in supports to help students respond independently.

Timing and Length

The summative assessment includes:

- Two mathematics sessions, approximately 35-40 total items
- Two ELA sessions, approximately 35-40 total items

Most of the items on the summative assessment are selected response; however, some are constructed response. The test must be administered one-on-one by a Montana-certified licensed educator employed by the district or paraprofessional within sight and hearing of a Montana-certified licensed educator employed by the district. The test administrator will determine the length of each session based on individual student need. It is estimated that the mathematics and ELA assessments will take 1.5-2 hours each to administer.

NCSC Accommodations

IEPs will need to be reviewed and updated to indicate participation in the NCSC Alternate Assessment in ELA and Mathematics. Participation in the assessment itself is considered the ultimate accommodation. However, NCSC has several accommodations that require documentation in a student's IEP in order to be used for the NCSC Alternate. These include:

- Assistive Technology for presentation of items to students
- Assistive Technology for student response to items
- Paper versions of items
- Scribe/Transcription
- Sign Language (e.g. ASL, PSE, SEE)

Assistive Technology (AT)

Students may use a variety of assistive technology devices to input responses, both as selected responses and as text-based open responses. Input could occur through alternate keyboards, eye gaze, switch devices, or speech-to-text, and other similar input devices. Students are also expected to access text using AT devices (e.g., screen readers). Refreshable Braille display is not supported for presentation of text-based content for the first operational year.

NCSC recommends testing AT devices for compatibility using the sample items that are available now on the NCSC Test Administration Portal.

The NCSC Assessment System allows a student or TA to use the shortcut keys on the keyboard to achieve basic functions when usage of a mouse is not an option.

Getting Ready

Curriculum and Instruction

The Core Content Connectors (CCCs) are alternate achievement standards aligned to the Common Core State Standards that were developed using the Learning Progression Frameworks to identify the big ideas in the Common Core State Standards that are essential for students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities who participate in alternate assessments.

Instructional resources can be found on the NCSC wiki https://wiki.ncscpartners.org/index.php/Main_Page. These include CCC and Curriculum Guides, Universal Design for Learning Units and guides, Scripted Model Instructional Units and guides, and interim assessments.

Sample Items

Sample items can be found on the NCSC Assessment System Website <https://teacher-ncscpartners.ctb.com/user>. They are available in an online and PDF format. ELA Sample items are currently available for grades 4, 8, and 11. Math sample items are available for grades 3, 6, and 11. Available assessment features for the online sample items include alternate color themes, answer masking, audio player, line reader, and magnification.

Resources

The OPI NCSC Alternate Assessment Page (http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#gpm1_3) contains Montana-specific resources and documents as well as links to the NCSC resources and sites.

The NCSC Summative Assessment System (<https://teacher-ncscpartners.ctb.com/user>) houses the online assessment system, the technology requirements, and sample items.

Technology

The technology requirements for NCSC can be found here: <http://ncscpartners.org/Media/Default/PDFs/NCSC-Workstation-and-Bandwidth-Technology-Requirements-3-28-14.pdf>