



10/1/21

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Recently you should have received your student's Individual Student Report (ISR). The results are from the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) English Language Arts (ELA), and Math summative assessments that were administered in spring 2021.

Administration of this year's assessment is one of a number of strategies the NDE is employing to better understand how students who tested are performing academically as part of our COVID-19 academic recovery efforts. Information gleaned from the test scores will help us create a stronger and more equitable education system by identifying regions, schools, and student groups where we most need to accelerate learning opportunities for all students.

NSCAS is unique in that it is administered statewide and can provide information not only on students' academic achievement, but also provide insights based on demographic information about who did and did not take the assessment in light of COVID-19 learning conditions.

The NDE discourages the direct comparisons of school/district/state data with assessment data from previous years due to participation rates, length and design of the assessment, impacts to opportunities to learn, impact of trauma from the pandemic, shifts in access to instruction due to quarantine, among other factors. The data does provide an important temperature check that allows the state to better track and address student recovery in the short and long term. Comparisons without the proper context are likely to be misinterpreted.

Individual student results should also be compared to past results with caution because of the learning disruptions caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The NDE encourages the comparison of individual students by family and educators that know individual students the best. Family members and educators that know individual students understand if and how the student's education was impacted during the pandemic. This context is essential in understanding where students are and how to accelerate their future learning.

Any assessment result is limited in its ability to tell the story of learning for an individual student. Schools use these results along with many other types of data to monitor student progress. For more information an [ISR Interpretive Guide for Parents](#) is available online to aid in understanding test results. This guide provides a definition of each achievement level.

If you have additional questions, we encourage you to reach out to your student's teachers and school.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Heneger