



Understanding the New Hampshire – New England Common Assessment Program

Understanding the NECAP

The NECAP is the statewide assessment used in New Hampshire as well as in Vermont and Rhode Island. These three states collaborated their resources to develop curriculum standards for subjects across the grade span and the NECAP tests assess students' proficiency in the skills and knowledge required of each grade.

The NECAP assessment covers the subject areas of Mathematics, Reading and Writing. New Hampshire has its own Science assessment. All students who attend school in New Hampshire are required to take these examinations; students with disabilities receive the required accommodations.

Students take the NECAP early in the school year to assess proficiency gained in the subject throughout their education to that point. The Science assessments are given at the end of the year to assess progress in that year's material only.

Format of the NECAP

For students in grades 3-4 the Reading and Mathematics tests are given in a multiple-choice and constructed-response format.

For students in grades 5-8 the Reading and Mathematics tests are given in a multiple-choice and constructed response format. There is also a Writing Prompt to answer. The Science Assessment for grades 5 and 8 asks questions in a multiple-choice and constructed-response format.

For high school students, the NECAP reading, writing and mathematics use questions in multiple-choice and constructed-response formats. There is also essay length response on the Writing Assessment. The Science Assessment is given in a multiple-choice and constructed-response format. Some schools offer online testing, that is decided on a district-by-district basis.

Taking the NECAP

For students in grades 3 -8 the NECAP in Reading and Mathematics is given in October. The test period is given during a three week test window. Writing is also assessed during this time for students in grades 5, 8 and 11. The Science test is given to students in grades 4, 8 and 11 in the last three weeks of May.

High school students take the NECAP in reading, writing and mathematics during the fall of their 11th grade year. This assessment is designed to measure learning in the content areas in the years preceding the start of 11th grade. The NECAP Science test is given in the spring of the 11th grade year and covers content learned during the school year.

Students are given scores of Substantially Below Proficient, Below Proficient, Proficient and Proficient with Distinction. For students scoring in the lowest two levels, appropriate instructional strategies will be put in place for the student.

Get Your Child Ready for the New Hampshire NCAP

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