

# Assessment Brief



Public Schools of North Carolina • State Board of Education • North Carolina Department of Public Instruction • Mark Johnson, State Superintendent

## NC Check-Ins

### Grades 3–8 Mathematics

### Grades 4–8 English Language Arts/Reading

*This brief is available on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Accountability Services Division website, [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing).*

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#### **Purpose and Overview of the NC Check-Ins**

NC Check-Ins are interim assessments developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) that are aligned to North Carolina grade-level content standards in English language arts (ELA)/reading for grades 4–8 and in mathematics for grades 3–8. In ELA, NC Check-Ins measure all grade-level content standards assessed and increase in text complexity. For mathematics, each NC Check-In focuses on a selected subset of grade-level content standards.

The main purpose of NC Check-Ins is to provide students, teachers, parents, and stakeholders with immediate in-depth action-data and a reliable estimate of students' current performance on the selected subset of content standards. Both the end-of-grade assessments (EOG) and the NC Check-Ins share a common item bank, which then exposes NC Check-In students to similar item types and rigor found on the EOGs.

The NCDPI does not have validity evidence to support using results from NC Check-Ins as a predictor of student performance on the EOG summative assessment. Even though there is evidence of a significant correlation between scores from NC Check-Ins and EOGs, this correlation evidence by itself does not signify prediction. The overall value of NC Check-Ins is in the use of in-depth action-data for formative purposes throughout the year to help students and teachers adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes.

#### **Participation**

School participation in the NC Check-Ins is voluntary and open to all local education agencies (LEAs) and charter schools.

All students who are enrolled in grades 3–8 (according to PowerSchool) and participate in the End-of-Grade (EOG) Mathematics Assessment and all students who are enrolled in grades 4–8 (according to PowerSchool) and participate in the ELA/Reading EOG Assessment may participate with or without accommodations in the NC Check-Ins.

#### **Administration Windows**

LEAs/charter schools may determine the administration days for each NC Check-In within the NCDPI designated windows. The NC Check-In windows are as follows:

- NC Check-In 1:      October 15–November 30, 2018
- NC Check-In 2:      January 2–February 8, 2019
- NC Check-In 3:      March 4–April 12, 2019

## Testing Formats

The NC Check-Ins are provided in paper/pencil and online formats. Online administrations of the NC Check-Ins are required through NCTest. All test items are formatted specifically for online presentation and presented on the screen one test item at a time. LEAs and charter schools administering the NC Check-Ins online should review the technical requirements at <http://center.ncsu.edu/nct/> for updates and to ensure their technology capability can support online testing.

## Quick Facts about the NC Check-Ins

- The ELA/Reading NC Check-Ins contain multiple-choice items.
- Item types for the Mathematics NC Check-Ins vary. The items include the following:
  - Multiple-choice items (paper/pencil and online)
  - Gridded response items (paper/pencil only)
    - Students at grades 5–8 may see gridded response items on their NC Check-Ins. The gridded response items require students to write and fill in numerical answers on their answer sheets rather than to select answers from several choices.
  - The Mathematics NC Check-Ins are in two parts: The first part is calculator inactive; the second is calculator active. For the calculator inactive part, students are **not** allowed to use a calculator. For the calculator active part, students can use a calculator. Note: The Grade 6 NC Check-In 1 contains calculator active questions only.
- Students with disabilities may use the same accommodations for the NC Check-Ins that are specified in their current Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), Section 504 Plans, or EL Plans for the ELA/reading EOG assessment. The IEP, 504, and/or EL teams do not have to reconvene and document the accommodations for the NC Check-Ins.

## North Carolina End-of-Grade Assessment

At the end of the school year, students participating in the NC Check-Ins will take the English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics End-of-Grade (EOG) assessments.

## Student Review Sessions

Following the administration of an NC Check-In, teachers have access to students' test books (for paper/pencil administrations) or an electronic copy of the NC Check-In (for online administrations) for up to five (5) weeks beyond the close of the designated testing window for student/teacher review sessions. Parents can view the students' responses within the school setting only. Teachers can share with parents the students' scores on the items through customary communication (i.e., individual parent/teacher conferences at the school).

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