

# Introduction to the 2017–2018 North Dakota State Assessments

## Factsheet

This factsheet contains important information about the 2017–2018 North Dakota State Assessments (NDSA).

### Tests Administered in 2017–2018

**North Dakota is no longer offering Smarter Balanced Assessments.**

The 2017–2018 NDSA include:

- Mathematics and ELA in grades 3–8 and 10
- Training tests for both mathematics and ELA

Interim assessments will not be administered in North Dakota this year.

**Testing Window Dates: March 14–May 18, 2018**

### Preparing for Testing

1. Each test administrator (TA) must have an account in TIDE in order to administer online assessments. If you do not have a TIDE account, contact your School Test Coordinator. Your TIDE account provides access to all AIR systems.
2. If you were registered in TIDE last year, you will be required to update your password. Passwords must contain at least eight characters and include at least three of the following: a number, a special character, an uppercase letter, a lowercase letter.
3. Test administrators are required to complete the online TA Certification Course before administering tests. The TA Certification Course is required for all TAs, including those who took the course last year. The TA Certification Course is available on the NDSA Portal beginning February 20, 2018.

### Accessibility and Accommodations

- Ensure that all student test settings are correctly set in TIDE at least 24 hours before the test administration.
- Paper-pencil accommodations are not being offered this year. However, Braille and print-on-demand accommodations are available.

- A Spanish language accommodation is available on mathematics assessments.
- Detailed information on universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations can be found in the NDSA Accessibility Manual located in the Resources section of the Portal.
- \*Please note the NDSA Accessibility Manual provides a general overview. For accommodations specific to the NDSA ELA and Math 2017-2018 please refer to the TIDE Guide.
- Headphones will not be required for Math and ELA assessments unless the student has accommodation requirements e.g. text to speech.

### **Ordering Procedure for Audio Transcripts**

ELA grades 5, 7 & 8 contain Audio files that may require written scripts for students with IEPs or 504 plans who cannot adequately hear the audio. These scripts would be a substitute for “closed captioning”, which is not available on the NDSA this year.

If you have students that require written scripts for audio files on the ELA test, we ask that your district test coordinator contact the AIR Service Desk to request the materials to be shipped to you. Please include grade(s) needed, contact person, email address, and shipping address. AIR will overnight the materials to you. You will receive a follow-up email that will include tracking information for the sent package.

## Test Administration

### **Training Tests**

TAs may administer training tests to students to familiarize them with the student interface and check that non-embedded tools (e.g., speech-to-text software) are functioning properly. Students may take the training tests as many times as desired using any supported browser. Training tests will be available on the NDSA Portal by March 2018.

### **Operational Tests**

Students must take the NDSA operational tests using the secure browser. Ensure that the secure browser is installed on all testing devices in advance of administration. Students have only a single opportunity to take each assessment in the NDSA. If a test is not submitted by the end of the testing window, it will expire.

### **Are there stopping points to the test? Do teachers just pick when to stop?**

The tests in each subject can be administered in multiple time segments. The segments do not need to be based on the number of questions completed. Students can start up in a new session where they left off in the last session. However, students will not be able to go back to questions from previous sessions. As a good practice to follow, for example, if students have a 60 minute test period, the TA

can tell students after 50 minutes that they have 10 minutes left to review everything they have completed so far because they won't be able to go back to previous questions the next time they begin a test session.

### **Is there a waiting period between Reading and Writing?**

In order to access the Writing item on the ELA test, students will have to wait 20 minutes after exiting segment 1. This pause will allow students to have some time for a break between the ELA segment and the essay. The essay can also be administered on a different day.

Test Administrators have the option to remain active in their current session or open a new one. Please note that inactivity for over 20 minutes on TA Interface will result in interface timeout and Test Administrators will need to create a new session for further testing.

### Score Reporting

Scores for the 2017–2018 NDSA will be available in the Online Reporting System (ORS) when it becomes available on the Portal in mid-August 2018. Authorized users can also use the ORS to access scores and performance information for prior school years.

### Additional Information

Please consult the NDSA Portal for more information on assessment systems and test administration resources.

You can access the Portal at: <http://ndsa.portal.airast.org/>

### Contact the NDSA Help Desk

For questions and technical assistance, please contact the NDSA Help Desk by email at [ndsaservicecenter@air.org](mailto:ndsaservicecenter@air.org) or by phone (toll-free) at 1-855-873-5715.

**Help Desk Hours of Operation:** Monday–Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.