

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction NC Check-Ins

School Talking Points September 2016

The following *School Talking Points* has been developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to assist districts/schools in the implementation of the NC Check-Ins. This information should be used in conjunction with any published supplements or updates. Additional information about NC Check-Ins may be found at <https://center.ncsu.edu/ncaccount/>.

1. For the Proof of Concept Study conducted in 2015–16, selected schools administered three interim assessments throughout the school year for grade 5 mathematics or grade 6 English language arts/reading and a stand-alone summative assessment at the end of the year. Teachers used the results from the interim assessments to inform their instruction and provide immediate assistance to students in areas where they were struggling.

For 2016–17, students will still be administered interim assessments and a stand-alone assessment at the end of the year. However, the number of participating schools at each grade/content area has been increased to approximately 15 percent, and volunteers are allowed to participate. The end of year assessment will be the standard EOG assessment that includes embedded field test items. Additionally, the name of the study has been changed from Proof of Concept to NC Check-Ins.
2. For the NC Check-Ins, the NCDPI selected a representative sample of schools that reflects statewide student demographics related to ethnicity, gender, previous mean scale score on state tests, and geographic location.
3. Although the NCDPI recognizes parents' concerns about additional testing, the SBE does not allow students to opt out of required state assessments, including field tests and special studies.
4. LEAs/charter schools may determine the testing days for each NC Check-In within the NCDPI-designated assessment windows. The assessment windows for NC Check-Ins are as follows:
 - NC Check-In 1: October 17–November 16, 2016
 - NC Check-In 2: January 2–31, 2017
 - NC Check-In 3: March 1–31, 2017
5. The NC Check-Ins consist of three interims and are provided in paper-and-pencil format.
6. The Grade 5 Mathematics NC Check-Ins contain 21 multiple-choice items and 4 gridded response items.
7. The Grade 6 English Language Arts/Reading NC Check-Ins contains 20 multiple-choice items.
8. Students with current IEPs, Section 504 Plans, or English Learner (EL) documentation may use instructional accommodations for the NC Check-Ins except for the *Read Aloud and Signing/Cueing* accommodations for the grade 6 ELA/reading. Reading aloud or signing/cueing the selections, questions, or answer choices on the ELA/reading Check-In invalidates results because the Check-In measures reading skills.

9. Each NC Check-In will generate student-level reports indicating the number of items correct by content standard, item type, and selection type, and will report an overall score. Teacher-level reports will provide a summary with similar information. Parents will receive student reports with an overall score by standard and item number.
10. NC Check-In student books will remain available to teachers in the participating schools for five weeks following the Check-In administrations. Teachers may use the books for reviews with students, and parents may view the books, but only within the school setting. The teacher may share with parents their student's scores on the items through customary communication (i.e., individual parent/teacher conferences at the school). Parents may not have copies of the NC Check-In items or student book, nor take pictures of any part of the book.
11. The NC Check-Ins administered during 2016–17 will not predict performance on the EOG assessment. In order to show prediction, there must first be a relationship. A relationship may be provided from year 1 to year 2 if the assessment model remains consistent across years. Year 1 may yield a prediction over time with enough evidence. The Check-Ins administered during the 2016–17 school year will be built using items from the EOG item bank. Although a prediction cannot be reported, there is direct connection from the NC Check-Ins to the EOG assessment.
12. Students will not receive achievement levels for the NC Check-Ins.
13. NC Check-In scores are not included in accountability.