

NCEXTENDI Writing Assessment—Grade 7

What are the purposes of the NC Testing Program?

The North Carolina Annual Testing Program is a requirement of General Statute 115C-174.10. As stated, the purposes of North Carolina state-mandated tests are “(i) to assure that all high school graduates possess those minimum skills and that knowledge thought necessary to function as a member of society; (ii) to provide a means of identifying strengths and weaknesses in the education process in order to improve instructional delivery; and (iii) to establish additional means for making the education system at the State, local, and school levels accountable to the public for results.”

The North Carolina Testing Program, effective with the 2000–2001 school year, was expanded in response to the Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to include a system of alternate assessments for students with disabilities. Based on the guidance and requirements from the U. S. Department of Education (USED), the *NCEXTENDI* was developed to assess students with significant cognitive disabilities on the grade-level North Carolina Extended Content Standards in reading and mathematics at grades 3–8 and 10 and in science at grades 5, 8, and 10. The *NCEXTENDI* also assesses students in writing at grades 4, 7, and 10. The *NCEXTENDI* replaced the North Carolina Alternate Assessment Portfolio effective with the 2006–2007 school year.

What is measured by the test?

The *NCEXTENDI* Writing Assessment—Grade 7 assesses the writing components of the grade-seven Extended Content Standards of the English/Language Arts North Carolina *Standard Course of Study* (NCSCS) adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) in 2004. The test consists of one writing prompt with a total of seven associated performance items. Each student is individually administered the writing prompt and the seven performance items.

A description of each of the Extended Content Standard goals that are assessed and the percent range of items for each goal are shown in the table below. Each item is also aligned to a thinking-skill level from the cognitive taxonomy described by Marzano, et al.

Goal	Description of Goal	Percent Range
3	The learner will explore, identify and/or support a preference, opinion or argument. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore, interact with, and/or demonstrate comprehension of sources containing preference, opinion or argument. • Express and support preference, opinion or argument. 	37—43
6	The learner will demonstrate an understanding of and/or apply conventions of grammar and language usage in written and spoken expression. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use appropriate conventions (including sentence formation, usage and mechanics) for purpose, audience and context. • Use standard English for clarity, technical language for specificity and informal usage for effect. • Extend vocabulary knowledge by learning and using new words. 	57—63

How is the test administered?

The **NCEXTENDI** Writing Assessment—Grade 7 is individually administered to eligible students during a designated testing window in March. The assessors use professional judgment to determine an appropriate length of time for each student’s test administration. The **NCEXTENDI** Writing Assessment—Grade 7 may be administered in one session or in multiple sessions over several days.

Each item has a script that is read by the assessor when presenting the item to the students. For the **NCEXTENDI** Writing Assessment—Grade 7, the writing prompt and its items may be read as many times as necessary and the writing prompt may be read before administering each item, unless otherwise noted in the test directions.

How was the test developed?

The writing prompts were created by NCDPI/Technical Outreach for Public Schools (TOPS) English/Language Arts/writing content specialists. The prompts contain content appropriate to the writing goals at grade seven. The writing prompts and items assess students in grade 7 on the argumentative mode of writing.

The items were written by NCDPI/TOPS English/Language Arts/writing content and test development staff. The items were reviewed and revised by trained, practicing North Carolina teachers and educators specializing in the areas of exceptional children, general education, and limited English proficiency during the 2007–2008 school year.

What kinds of scores do students receive on the test?

Students receive an individual student report (ISR) containing a scale score, achievement level ranking (I, II, III, or IV), and descriptions of student performance associated with each achievement level.

How does Edition 2 differ from previous editions of the test?

This edition of the **NCEXTENDI** Writing Assessment—Grade 7 contains seven on-demand performance items with all items administered to all eligible students. This edition of the **NCEXTENDI** Writing Assessment—Grade 7 also contains presentation scripts.

This publication and the information contained within must not be used for personal or financial gain. North Carolina LEA school officials and teachers, parents, and students may download and duplicate this publication for instructional and educational purposes only. Others may not duplicate this publication without prior written permission from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Division of Accountability Services/North Carolina Testing Program.

In compliance with federal law, NC Public Schools administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.