

North Carolina Testing Program Alternate Assessment System
NCEXTEND2 OCS (Occupational Mathematics I, Occupational English I (reading), Life Skills Sciences I and II, and the OCS Writing Assessment at grade 10)
Eligibility Criteria

In response to guidance from the United States Department of Education, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has developed a system of alternate assessments in an effort to provide appropriate access and opportunity for students with disabilities. The North Carolina statewide testing program has been expanded to include NCEXTEND2 EOG alternate assessments at the EOG level and the NCEXTEND2 OCS for high school students in several selected courses in the Occupational Course of Study. The following are guidelines for participation in the NCEXTEND2 OCS alternate assessments (Occupational Mathematics I, Occupational English I (reading), Life Skills Sciences I and II, and the OCS writing assessment at grade 10).

The NCDPI believes that students should be placed in the most challenging and most appropriate assessment to ensure that all students are sufficiently challenged to realize their potential. It is the expectation that ALL students who participate in NCEXTEND2 OCS are receiving instruction in the Occupational Course of Study (OCS) for the subject(s) in which the students are being assessed.

To determine student participation in the NCEXTEND2 OCS (Occupational Mathematics I, Occupational English I (reading), Life Skills Sciences I and II, and the OCS writing assessment at grade 10), the following eligibility criteria must be considered:

- The student must have a current IEP;
- The student **DOES NOT** have a current 504 plan;
- The student, if identified as limited English proficient (LEP), must also have a current IEP;
- The student is enrolled for credit in courses in the Occupational Course of Study which require an NCEXTEND2 OCS assessment (Occupational Mathematics I, Occupational English I (reading), Life Skills Sciences I and II¹);
- The student's IEP includes goals that are based on course content standards and provide for monitoring of student's progress in achieving those goals; and
- For the NCEXTEND2 OCS in writing, the student is assigned to grade 10 according to the student information management system (e.g. SIMS/NCWISE) and is following the Occupational Course of Study (OCS).

A student may be assessed with NCEXTEND2 OCS in one or more subjects for which the assessments are administered. The decision to assess a student with NCEXTEND2 OCS must be determined annually and documented as part of the IEP process. In addition, the decision to place a student in the NCEXTEND2 OCS should not preclude a student from earning a North Carolina high school diploma.

Parents of students who are administered NCEXTEND2 OCS, as part of the IEP team and as participants in the IEP process, are to be informed that their child's achievement will be measured using the NCEXTEND2 OCS assessment(s).

¹ Regardless of the order in which the two courses (OCS Life Skills Science I or II) were taken, students who are currently enrolled in the second course of OCS Life Skills Science I or II must participate in the Life Skills Science test.