

Online Testing 2012-13 What You Need to Know

November 19, 2012

Webinar Purpose



- Provide an overview of the new online assessment features for 2012-13
- Discuss changes to the NCTest technical requirements
- Discuss tips for successful online assessment administrations

Note: The intended audience is LEA/charter school test coordinators and LEA/charter school technical staff.

Webinar Acronyms



- LEA Local Education Agency
- TA Test Administrator
- STC School Test Coordinator
- LEA TC LEA Test Coordinator
- LEA TA LEA Test Assistant
- MTS Multiple Testing Sessions accommodation
- CRTA Computer Reads Test Aloud-Student Controlled accommodation

NC Education versus NCTest



- NC Education is a web-based Learning Management System
- NCTest
 - is a web application for online testing built using Google Web Toolkit (GWT)
 - is the vehicle by which the online tests are delivered

Updates to NC Education



- Beta testing process using a cloned server
- Increased bandwidth to 10 Gbps
- Student enrollment and accommodations data feeds
- Student accounts
- Simplified user roles
- Emergency Alert System
- New NCTest data distribution plan

Updates to NCTest



- New hardware
- Separate hardware from NC Education
- Multiple database server stacks with data spread across
- Increased bandwidth to 10 Gbps
- Stress testing and analysis
- Emergency Alert Email System
- New NCTest data distribution plan
- iPad compatible

Online Assessment Tutorial



- Who? Every student participating in online EOC or EOG assessments
- Where? At least one time at school
- When? Before test day
- How? Using video or script
- http://go.ncsu.edu/nctdemo
- EOG tutorials are expected in February 2013

2012-13 Released Forms



- Online and p/p versions
- Online version presented in the same interactive environment
- Responses are not saved or scored
- Online version answer key
- http://www.ncpublicschools.org/ accountability/testing/ releasedforms

Capacity (Stress Test) Report





ITNG Services was asked by the Center for Urban Affairs and Community Service (CUACS) to prove NCTest's ability to support 250,000 concurrent users. This document describes the architecture and methodology necessary to implement the test.

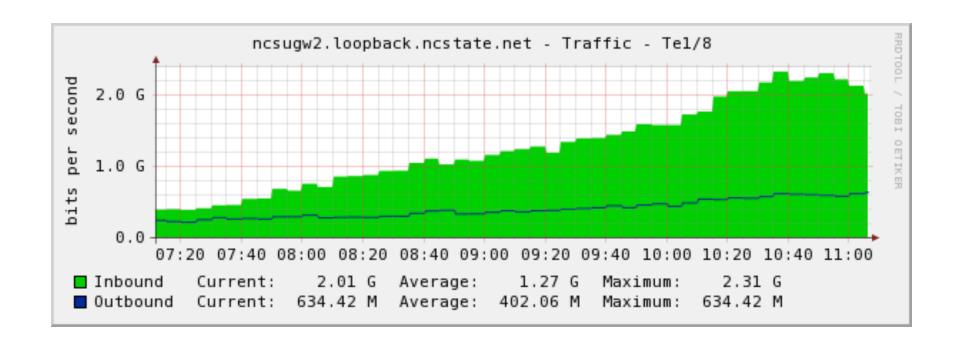
Report Conclusions



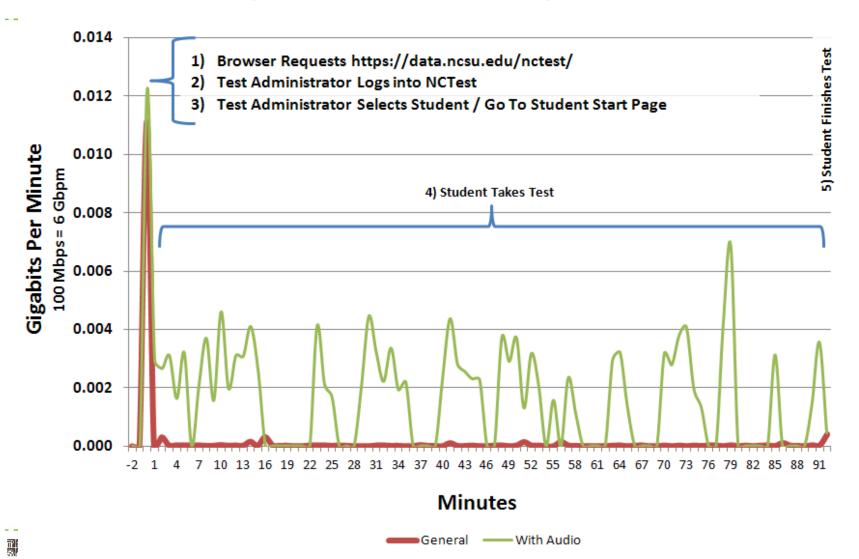
- 250,000 concurrent users will create 10% load on the NCTest infrastructure
- NCTest start up phase places the largest load on the network
- NCTest start up period should be spread out over a longer period of time (30 minutes)

Typical Day Bandwidth Utilization for NC State University





Network Footprint for Online Assessments Example for General and Computer Reads Aloud



NCTest Local Start Up Rate Potential

Per 5 Minute Window For Different Common Bandwidth Values

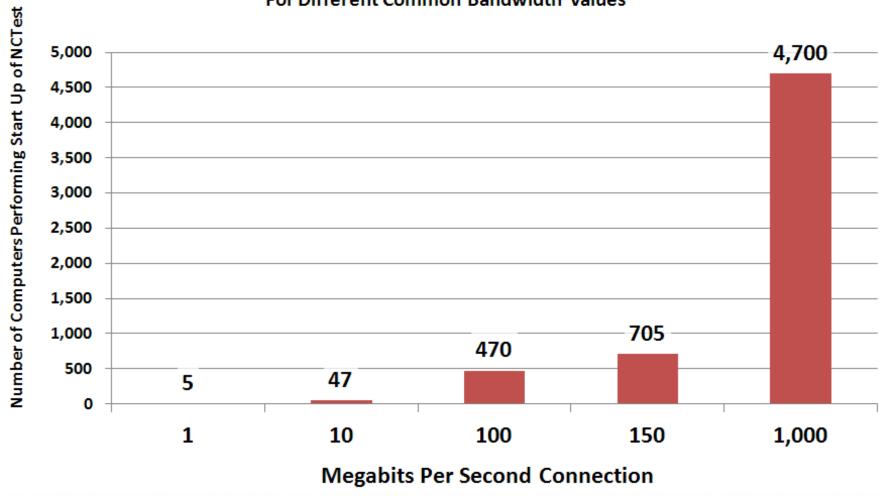


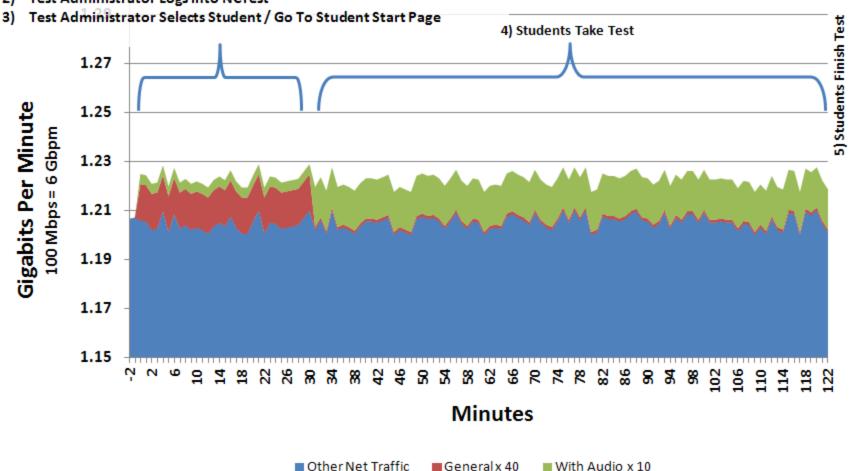
Illustration of Potential Bandwidth Utilization

NCTest Online Assessment with

40 General Students and 10 with Computer Reads Aloud

Note: This illustration shows all students starting and finishing at the same time.

- 1) Browser Requests https://data.ncsu.edu/nctest/
- 2) Test Administrator Logs into NCTest



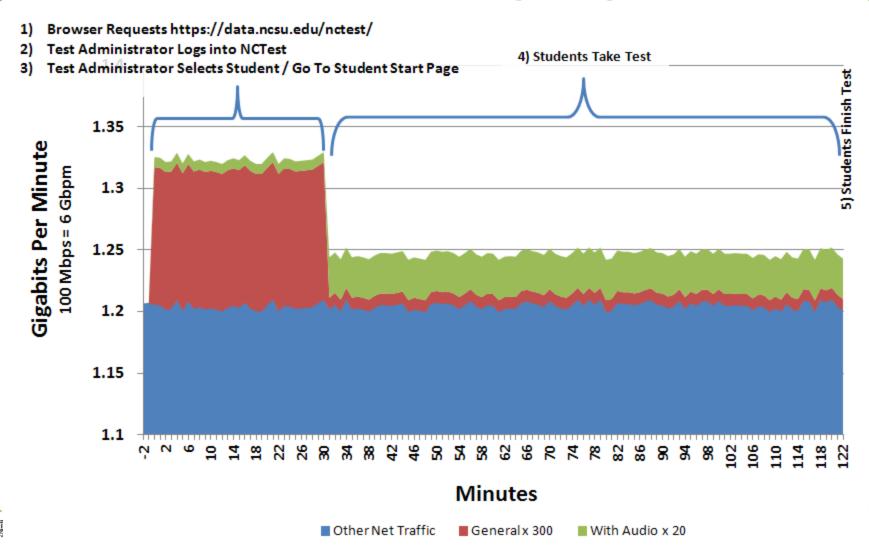
■ With Audio x 10

Illustration of Potential Bandwidth Utilization

NCTest Online Assessment with

300 General Students and 20 with Computer Reads Aloud.

Note: This illustration shows all students starting and finishing at the same time.



If you've never administered online assessments

- Learn about your network
- Check the technical requirements and make sure your computers and browsers can run NCTest
- Check your content filtering and traffic shaping to make sure it is open for traffic from data.ncsu.edu and center.ncsu.edu
- Use the Online Assessment Tutorial and the Online Released Forms to simulate a testing event

Schools Must Meet Technical Requirements



- Schools must meet specific technical requirements specified at http://go.ncsu.edu/nct/.
- Schools must review these technical requirements before test day and make any necessary adjustments before administering an online assessment
- Schools that administer an online assessment, but <u>do not meet</u>
 the technical requirements, are at risk of providing students
 items that cannot be manipulated (e.g., technology-enhanced
 items), items that do not display with associated artwork (e.g.,
 tables, graphs, symbols), and items that do not fit properly on
 the screen

2012-13 Technical Requirements for NCTest V 3.0

- Disable add-ons
- 1024 x 768 Screen resolution for best performance
- Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Mac OS X 10.4 or greater, and iOS (iPads)
- Allow JavaScript & session state cookies
- Allow all web traffic (including JavaScript, mp3 files, images, etc.) from center.ncsu.edu and data.ncsu.edu (standard and secure)
- Allow pop-ups to open in a <u>new</u> window (not in a tabbed window)

2012-13 Technical Requirements for NCTest V 3.0 (continued)

- Microsoft Internet Explorer versions 8 and 9, Mozilla
 Firefox versions 10+, Apple Safari 5.1.7+, Google Chrome
 version 21+ (IE 6.0 is not allowed to access NCTest)
- Schools using Internet Explorer (IE) versions 8 and 9 must turn off Compatibility View or remove center.ncsu.edu and data.ncsu.edu
- For bandwidth footprint and best practices for wireless networking, go to: go.ncsu.edu/nct
- Periodically check the requirements for updates at go.ncsu.edu/nct

Chromebook Devices



 The NCDPI does not support Chromebook devices for administering end-of-grade and end-ofcourse online assessments at this time.

Warning Messages



- ERROR-You are currently using Internet Explorer version 6.
 NCTest will not function with this browser.
- WARNING UNSUPPORTED BROWSER-You are currently using [browser] ([number] version). You will be allowed to login, but NCTest may not work as intended when using this browser. For additional information, see: http://go.ncsu.edu/nct
- WARNING-You are currently using Internet Explorer (IE) in Compatibility View. You will be allowed to login, but NCTest may not work as intended. Turn off Compatibility View so NCTest will work as intended when using this browser. For additional information, see: http://go.ncsu.edu/nct

CRTA Accommodation



- Audio is available for item stems and answer choices
- No audio files for graphics, graphs, or tables within a test item, or application content, menus, embedded tools (e.g., Reset, Flag), error messages, warning/reminder messages, or section summaries
 - Combination of both the Test Administrator Reads Test Aloud and Computer Reads Test Aloud—Student Controlled accommodations may be needed
- Must also receive the Testing in a Separate Room accommodation (one-on-one) unless using headphones
- For additional information, refer to the Testing Students with Disabilities document at: http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/accountability/policyoperations/tswd1213.pdf

CRTA Accommodation & Bandwidth



- Audio increases the stress on bandwidth and network connectivity at both the school and LEA level
- Schools with large numbers of SIQs marked as requiring the Computer Reads Test Aloud—Student Controlled accommodation should consider the following:
 - Stagger start times by spreading them across the day
 - Reduce the school's overall activity on the internet while test administrations are occurring
 - Schedule additional test sessions with a lower number of students using this accommodation at one time

Help Desk



- Report an incident to the Help Desk by one contact person using one method of communication (<u>ncdesk@ncsu.edu</u>or 919-515-1320)
- Callers should provide the following information: First and last name and title/position of contact person; Phone number and/or e-mail address; School district name; School name; LEA/school code; Test name (course or subject and grade level); Form number (available at the top of the screen); Description of incident; Error message(s) (document the words verbatim); Browser name and version (e.g., Internet Explorer 8.0)
- The Help Desk should provide the caller with a ticket number for reference

NC Education/My Home Views



Course Overview-Tabbed



Course Overview (list)

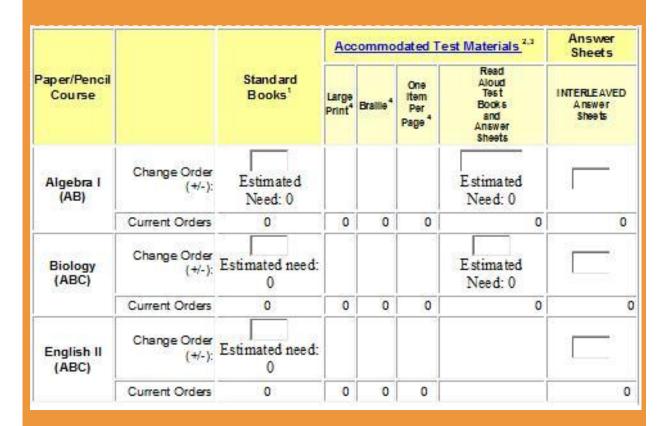


Student Enrollment & Accommodations Data Feeds



- NC WISE, CECAS, and third-party accommodations management systems
- Corrections must be made in the authoritative source
- IEPs must be closed and verified
- Accommodations must not be expired
- At the close of business, data is pulled, processed the following day, & available the next morning (except third-parties)

Test Materials Ordering





- Paper-andpencil materials only
- Estimated Need is course enrollment plus 10%

Accommodated Test Materials Verification

READY

Accommodations Verification

Accommodated Test Materials Verification

Accommodated test materials verification lists reflect student enrollment and accommodations information retrieved from the authoritative data source (i.e., NC WISE, CECAS, and third-party accommodations management systems). These lists are used to order accommodated test materials. The left column lists all students marked as requiring accommodated test materials. The right column lists other students enrolled in the school. Schools are expected to review the left column and make any necessary corrections in the authoritative data source. Corrections will be reflected in the verification list after the next data feed.

Select one of the following accommodated materials:

- Braille Edition
- Special NCDPI Approved Accommodation
- Large Print Edition
- One Test Item Per Page Edition
- Other (Pending NCDPI Approval)
- Read Aloud

Select a test cycle:

Fall 2012

Select an assessment:

EOC - Algebra Vintegrated I

Select a Region, LEA, or School from the choices below:

(Totals for the accommodated materials display beside each label)

- •Review students marked as requiring p/p accommodated test materials
- Make all corrections in authoritative source
- •Refreshed daily with 36-hour turnaround (except third-parties)



Student Enrollment Lists & General End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments



- Confirm students enrollment in course codes requiring an EOC assessment (Refer to course code list at: http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/eoc/)
- Compare the verification lists to EXPTEST file on the secure shell
 - All students enrolled in a course code requiring the EOC assessment will be listed. However, some students may already have a test score and should not be administered the test.
- Make all corrections in authoritative source
- Refreshed daily with an approximate 36-hour turnaround (except third-parties)

Student Enrollment Lists & Alternate Assessments

- Students marked as requiring the NCEXTEND1 or NCEXTEND2 assessments in the student's IEP
- IEP must be closed and verified
- Accommodations must not be expired
- Make all corrections in authoritative source
- Refreshed daily with approximate 36-hour turnaround (except third-parties)

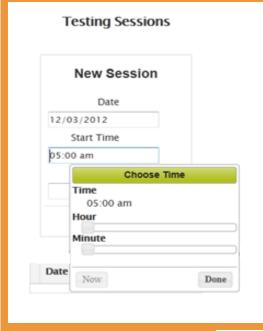
NCTest Admin Page



- Create test sessions
- Confirm SIQs
- Complete Accommodations
 Provided
- Reset, resume, or finalize
- Special coding

Schedule Test Sessions Tab



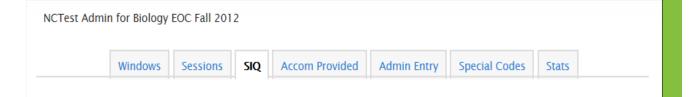


Hint: Schedule test sessions for the time test administrators will begin setting up the computers (not for the time students are expected to start the test).

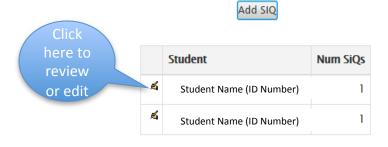


- Must be created before test day
- School test coordinator and LEA TC/TA may create test sessions
- To edit a test session, click the "hand and pencil" icon

Student Interface Questions (SIQ) Tab



Accommodations required by the student (i.e., Multiple Testing Sessions, Computer Reads Test Aloud–Student Controlled, Check if the student requires any other accommodations) are pre populated using data from the authoritative source (i.e., NC WISE, CECAS, and third–party accommodations management systems). Schools are expected to confirm the accuracy of these fields and make any necessary corrections in the authoritative source. In order for a student to access the student interface options or required accommodations on test day, they must be correctly marked in the student's SIQ before test day. Refer to the *Assessment Guide* for additional information.

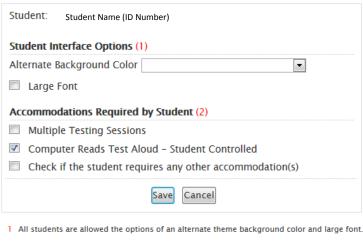




- Pre populated
- Confirm and make corrections to authoritative source
- Large font,
 alternate
 background,
 CRTA, and MTS
 <u>must</u> be marked
 before test day
- To review or edit, click the "hand and pencil" icon

Editing Student Interface Questions (SIQ) Tab

Accommodations required by the student (i.e., Multiple Testing Sessions, Computer Reads Test Aloud-Student Controlled, Check if the student requires any other accommodations) are pre populated using data from the authoritative source (i.e., NC WISE, CECAS, and third-party accommodations management systems). Schools are expected to confirm the accuracy of these fields and make any necessary corrections in the authoritative source. In order for a student to access the student interface options or required accommodations on test day, they must be correctly marked in the student's SIQ before test day. Refer to the Assessment Guide for additional information.



- 2 A student must have documentation on a current IEP/Section 504 Plan/LEP plan/transitory impairment plan to be eligible for testing accommodations.
- * Indicates a manually overridden SIQ. Overridden SIQs will NOT be updated automatically.



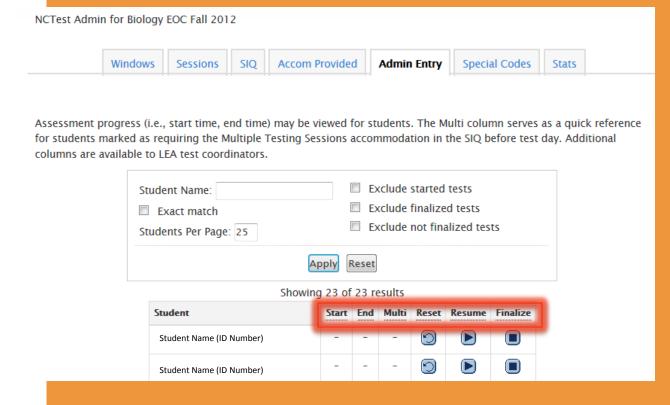
- Student records with manually added SIQs or edited SIQs will not accept updated data from the authoritative source for the edited accommodation
- All corrections must be made in the authoritative source
- (NEW) CRTA, MTS, or other requires Accommodations Provided

Accommodations Provided Tab



- TAs must complete Accommodations
 Provided following the test administration for all students marked in the SIQ as requiring the MTS accommodation (NEW), CRTA accommodation (NEW), or any other accommodations.
- Test records for students without this coding will <u>not be submitted</u> for scoring until the coding is complete.

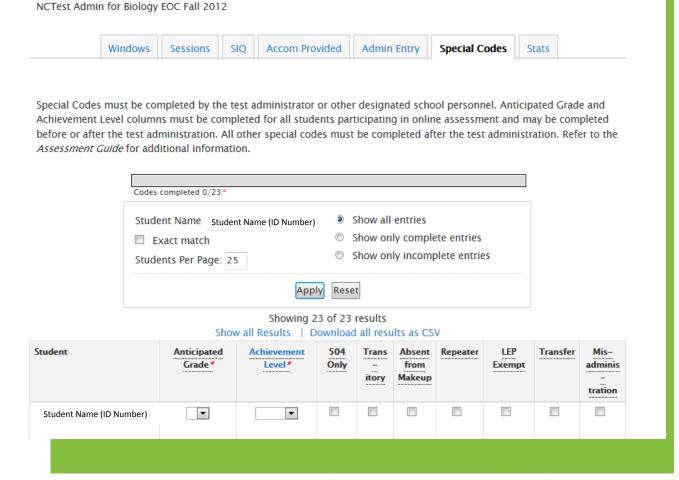
Administrator Entry Tab





- Reset: Clears student responses and allows student to start again
- Resume: Allows a student with an **End** time to continue on the same test day; used when students accidentally end the assessment
- Finalize: Submits an assessment for a student without an **End** time, but has completed the assessment.

Special Codes Tab





- Anticipated Grade & Achievement Level may be completed **BEFORE** test day
- All other special codes must be completed AFTER the test
- Group coding not required for online assessments

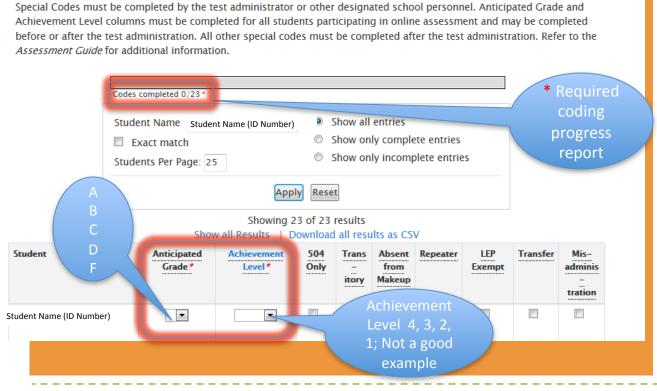
Anticipated Grade & Achievement Level

Accom Provided

Admin Entry

Special Codes

Stats





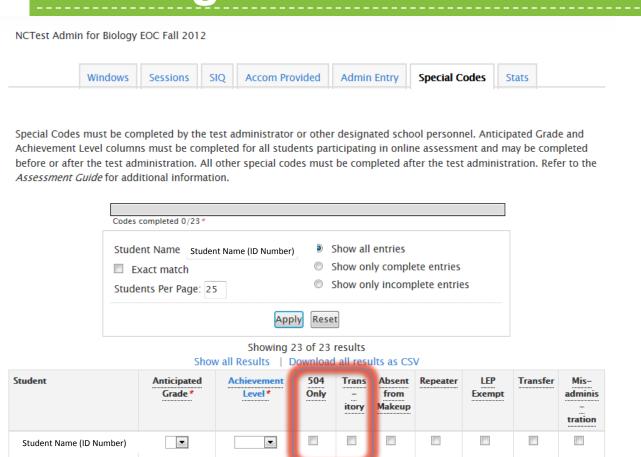
- Test records for students without this coding will not be submitted for scoring until the coding is complete
- The column
 header for
 Achievement
 Level links to the
 DRAFT 2012-13
 achievement level
 descriptors
- Required coding progress report *

NCTest Admin for Biology EOC Fall 2012

Windows

Sessions

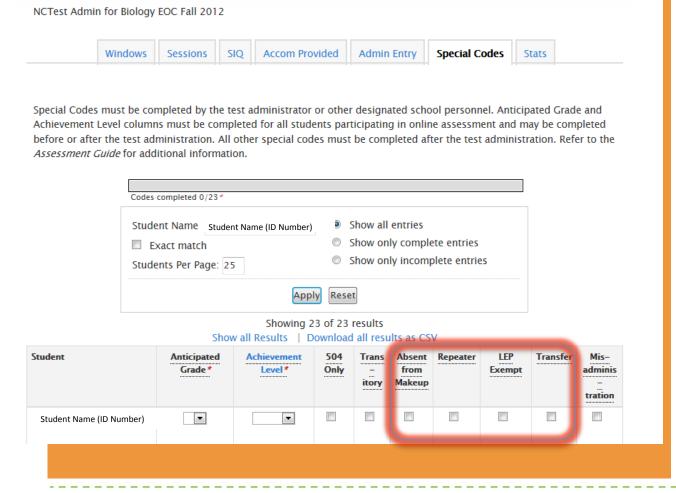
504 Online & Transitory Coding





- Must be completed AFTER testing
- Mark 504 Only for students identified ONLY under Section 504
- Mark **Transitory** for a transitory impairment

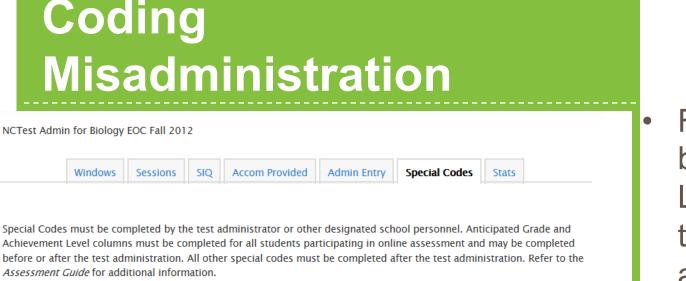
Reason Student Wasn't Tested





- Optional: If the LEA requires a test record for every student
- Training Note:
 Mark Absent
 from Makeup
 only if the
 student was
 absent from the
 makeup session
 (not absent from
 the scheduled
 test session)

Coding **Misadministration**



Achievement Level columns must be completed for all students participating in online assessment and may be completed before or after the test administration. All other special codes must be completed after the test administration. Refer to the Assessment Guide for additional information.



Showing 23 of 23 results





For students being retested, **LEATC Resets** the student's assessment under Admin Entry tab. After the student is retested, the TA marks the **Misadministration** column

NCTest Admin for Biology EOC Fall 2012

Windows

Sessions



Before Test Day

Before Test Day for Technical Staff



- Ensure all computers meet specified technical requirements
- Have a plan for network failures
- Work with the STC to create a plan for TAs to quickly communicate any technology problems
- Conduct a stress test using the tutorial or released forms

Before Test Day for TAs



- Check NC Education username and password
- Ensure you are linked to the correct school (if not, submit a *Link Request*)
- Review SIQ information (if designated by the STC)
- Optional Before Test Day: Complete Anticipated Grade & Achievement Level special codes
- Check headphones (if applicable)

Before Test Day for STCs



- Check NC Education username and password
- Ensure you are linked to the correct school (if not, submit a Link Request)
- Review the Accommodated Test Materials Verification and Student Enrollment Lists (courses) and submit corrections to the authoritative data source
- Create test sessions (if designated by the LEATC)
- Work with the school technical staff to create a plan for TAs to quickly communicate any technology problems. Note: Cell phones/electronic devices must be turned off
- Do not schedule test sessions through the last day of school. Create a buffer in case students need to be retested for any reason



On Test Day

Technology Tips On Test Day



- Allow more time to stagger computer logins (begin setup earlier)
- Restrict video streaming or other online activities
- Have extra computers available
- Have a plan for moving students with extended time
- Distribute tips for interruptions, items not displaying properly, items appearing slowly

On Test Day for TAs



- Login and setup computers allowing time to stagger the logins and to ensure all equipment is working
- Turn off cell phones/electronic devices
- Monitor students to ensure they are not using other websites or resources
- For math assessments, ensure the students have a hand-held calculator during the calculator-active section. (Look for a calculator icon on the screen.)

Troubleshooting Tips for Test Administrators



- Interruption during the test (e.g., loss of Internet connection, illness)
 - The student's assessment may be resumed on any computer. The test will resume at the last accessed webpage prior to the interruption.
- Items not displaying or not displaying correctly
 - Click the NEXT or BACK buttons to refresh the item.
- Items appearing slowly on the screen
 - Contact the school's technical staff is items appearing slowly could mean that the server, the network, or the student's computer is running very slowly.



After Testing

After Testing for Test Administrators



- Complete the Special Codes tab
 - Ensure all students participating in online testing have Anticipated Grade and Achievement Level coded
 - Coding is not required to be completed in a group setting
- Complete Accommodations Provided for required students
- Purge/delete any information from the assessment saved or cached

Winscan Data Distribution Plan



- Due to delayed fall EOC scores and no Retest 1,
 Winscan data files will be processed once daily
- All student assessments ended by the student or finalizing by the LEA TC, will be submitted and processed at 4pm each day
- Winscan files may be available within 30-60 minutes
- Test records for any students without all required coding will not be exported. Once the coding is complete, the test test record will be processed during the next 4pm data period

NCTest Lock/Unlock Feature



- Similar to the lock/unlock feature used for NCEXTEND1
- LEA TC/TAs may use this optional feature
- When the local test window closes, the LEA may restrict any changes to NCTest Admin (e.g., Special Codes, Accommodations Provided) by school staff

Online Assessments Best Practices Guide



- Revised for the 2012–13 school year and available at http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/assessment/guide
- Contains case studies of schools that use schoolwide online assessments
- Addresses issues of scheduling, financial planning, and technical requirements and includes first person voices from schools or districts about the specific steps taken to plan for and administer online assessments





- This PowerPoint will be posted at:
 - http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- For technical assistance, contact the Help Desk at: ncdesk@ncsu.edu
- For test administration questions, contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator (RAC)