

NM-MSSA FACT SHEET

The New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement is New Mexico’s statewide summative assessment for mathematics and language arts. As the NM-MSSA is a single measure at the end of a grade band, interpretations and uses of NM-MSSA scores should be supplemented with additional measures, including information from classroom summative and formative assessments in mathematics and English language arts, as well as interim assessments.

Who takes the NM-MSSA?

All students in grades 3–8 take the NM-MSSA in language arts and math unless they are designated for alternate assessment. Eligible English Learners in grades 3–8 may be assigned the Spanish versions of the assessments.

What does the test measure?

The NM-MSSA is designed to measure whether students are on track to be ready for college or career, as defined by the state, by showing they have mastered the New Mexico Common Core State Standards for mathematics and language arts. Information on the NM-MSSA alignment to NM Content Standards is in Cognia’s Test Specifications for [math](#) and [English language arts](#).

When is the test given?

These assessments are administered in the spring of the academic year. Please see the state testing calendar [here](#).

How is the test administered?

The NM-MSSA is a computer-based, fixed-form assessment but can be ordered on paper for students requiring such per their IEP. Schools have the flexibility within the testing window to schedule sessions to best meet student needs.

Subject	Session	Time (Approximation)
ELA (or SLA)	Reading	60 minutes
	Language Usage	90 minutes
Math	No Calculator	60 minutes
	Calculator	60 minutes

For specific information about question types and total point allotment, please see the [NM-MSSA ELA/SLA](#) or [NM-MSSA Math](#) Blueprints.

What are the performance levels?

Students will receive a performance level and a numerical scaled score in math, reading, and language usage:

Novice	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
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NM-MSSA scale score ranges vary by grade. Please see the [Cognia Scale Scores](#) to see the scale score matrix. For specific information about the knowledge, skills, and abilities a student must demonstrate to score within each proficiency level, please see the Performance Level Descriptors for [ELA](#) or [Math](#).

When can I access reports?

Preliminary scores will be available to district and school administrators in the [Cognia Data Portal](#) approximately 3 weeks after the testing window closes. Results will be made available in the [Family Portal](#) approximately 2 months after the testing window closes.