

NHEIAP/NECAP Comparison

October 2005 NECAP data available at <http://www.ed.state.nh.us>

	NHEIAP (May 2004)	NECAP (October 2005)
Time of Year	Spring (May) Test	Fall (October) Test
Grades	Grades 3 and 6	Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
Areas Tested	Reading and Mathematics at both grades No Writing	Reading and Mathematics at all grades Writing at grades 5 and 8
# Tested	About 32,000 students in grades 3 & 6	About 96,000 students in grades 3-8
Content Standards	Based on NH Curriculum Frameworks organized by end-of-grade standards at grades 3 and 6	Based on Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) defined at the end-of-grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7
Test Design	Criterion reference test that allowed schools to measure performance and improvement against grade span standards. Student performance expectations were overlaid on that structure to comply with NCLB.	Criterion reference test that is designed to measure student achievement against student performance expectations for the start of each grade.
	Test specs called for assessing all standards contained in the framework over time, and items adhered to a distribution of emphasis. Test items were reviewed for language, content, and grade appropriateness.	Test specifications are based on a tight set of assessment GLEs and include a pre-established distribution of emphasis. Test items are developed using principals of universal design, and are reviewed for bias, and depth of knowledge, as well as content and grade appropriateness.
	Mathematics tests included multiple choice and 4-point constructed response items. Reading tests included multiple choice and 4-point constructed response items.	Mathematics tests include multiple choice, and 1-, 2-, and 4-point constructed response items. Reading tests include multiple choice and 4-point constructed response items. Writing tests include three 4-point constructed response items and one extended writing prompt – all different genres.
Support Material	Support material: practice test at grade 3.	Support material: Test taking tips for students, practice tests at each grade level (grades 3-8), math reference sheets (grades 5-8), hundreds chart and multiplication table (grades 3-4), and a comprehensive accommodation manual.
Student Data	Student demographic and program participation data collected on Student Response Booklet	All student demographic and program participation data collected through i.4.see – the Department’s electronic student level data submission structure.
Teacher Involvement	Frameworks developed by teachers in NH. Test items review by teacher committees.	GLEs developed cooperatively by teams of teachers from the 3 states. Test items are reviewed cooperatively by teams of teachers from the 3 states within two separate committee structures: Bias and Sensitivity, and Test Item Review.
Results	Proficiency levels reported as Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Novice.	Achievement levels reported as Proficient with Distinction (level 4), Proficient (level 3), Partially Proficient (level 2), and Substantially Below Proficient (level 1).
	Student proficiency defined as “Basic or above”	Student proficiency defined as “Proficient or above”.
	System measured school improvement by comparing results of different cohorts of 3 rd and 6 th graders one year to next.	System measures school improvement, and provides the means to judge student growth over time.