



NM-MSSA FAQs



NM-MSSA

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This document is a living document and will be revised as we receive more questions. Please check back often to receive updated information.

General Questions

Do I have to order my online testing materials using the online ordering tool?

- Only paper materials need to be ordered. Online testing needs are identified during the pre-ID process and do not need to be manually ordered.

Will I receive printed NM-MSSA manuals?

- Yes, every district and charter school will receive printed NM-MSSA Test Coordinator Manuals (TCM) and Test Administrator's Manual (TAM) during the initial shipment of test materials. Note that the manuals are calculated as one TCM per school, and one TAM for every twenty-five students.
- For convenience, there are also electronic versions of both TCM and TAM on the [help and support site](#) should you need to refer to them earlier than when the initial shipment is received.

How will I receive student pre-ID labels for my paper testers?

- Starting in spring 2025 for the NM-MSSA, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) has decided that no paper test materials—this includes standard print, large print, braille, and human reader kits for all subjects and grades 3-8—will be returned to Cognia. Instead, the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) or District Test Coordinators (DTCs) will be responsible for destroying and/or storing secure testing materials locally. As a result, there will be no UPS pickups for any NM-MSSA paper test materials.
- For additional details regarding paper testers' responses, please refer to *Handling Spring 2026 NM-MSSA PBT Student Responses* document available in the Help and Support site, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-accommodations>.

Are there tutorials for each of the different content areas and item types?

- The NM-MSSA practice test is available at <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice-nm-mssa>.
- The practice tests contain items for grades 3-8 in Language Arts (English and Spanish), and Mathematics (English and Spanish). Each item type that will be present on the operational assessment is present in the practice test. This is the resource for practicing all item types.

Should my students who are scheduled to take a DLM assessment also be scheduled for the NM-MSSA assessment?

- No.
- Please be sure that any students scheduled for DLM are not scheduled to take an assessment for NM-MSSA.
- This will avoid any duplicate records during reporting windows.

Do I need to return MSSA manuals after testing?

- No. Manuals are non-secure and do not need to be returned.
- Districts/schools may choose to destroy them or recycle them as they see fit.
- As mentioned earlier, no paper materials are returned to Cognia.

Are the sessions testing times shown in the manuals' recommended times?

- Yes, they are included in the TCM and TAM. The NM-MSSA is an untimed test.
- Suggested or recommended times are provided to assist with test scheduling.
- The suggested testing times for the NM-MSSA assessments are listed in the following table.

Subject(s)	Session	Estimated Testing Time (Minutes)	Calculator Status by Section
Mathematics Grades 3–8	Session 1	60	Non-calculator
	Session 2	60	Calculator
ELA Grades 3–8	Session 1	60	
	Session 2	90	
SLA Grades 3–8	Session 1	60	
	Session 2	90	

If I have students who need to take the large print and braille version of the NM-MSSA paper test, what do I need to do?

- In this case, you will need to place an order during the NM-MSSA initial ordering window, which starts on December 1, 2025, and closes on January 9, 2026.
- To place an order, please refer to the “Online Ordering” instructions available on the NM Help & Support site, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/ordering-pickup>.

Online Ordering Questions

Do I need to order all my NM-MSSA test materials?

- No. You only need to place an order for NM-MSSA paper test materials.
- NM-MSSA paper test materials include standard print paper, large print, braille, and human reader kits.

Where do I place an order for NM-MSSA paper test materials?

- You can order test materials via [iServices](#).
- For more details, please refer to the ordering instructions available on the Help & Support site, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/ordering-pickup>.

When can I order NM-MSSA paper test materials?

- You can either order during the initial ordering window, December 1, 2025, through January 9, 2026, or during the additional ordering window, February 23, 2026, through April 23, 2026.

When should I expect to receive my ordered NM-MSSA paper test materials?

- If you order during the initial ordering window, you can expect to receive the test materials two weeks before the test administration begins, that is, by Friday, February 27, 2026.
- If you order during the additional ordering window, it will depend on when exactly you place your order. Please feel free to contact the NM help desk team to inquire about a specific date.

Practice Test Questions

When will the practice tests be available?

- The practice tests are available all year round, 24/7.
- They are available in both online testing mode and paper-based testing mode.
- You can access all of them in the help and support site, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice-nm-mssa>.
- You can practice using the practice site, <https://intro.emetric.net>, where you can practice using the student kiosk (use the demo accounts available on the help and support site, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice-nm-mssa>, or you can access the practice test using the browser.

Is there a manual for the NM-MSSA practice test?

- Yes, there is a [downloadable practice test manual](https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice-nm-mssa) to accompany the practice test available in the help and support site within the *Computer-Based Testing Teacher Resources Tab* section, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice-nm-mssa>.
- Along with the manual you will also need to print out the supplemental instructions page for paper-based testers.

ELA Questions

Will the scoring rubrics for writing prompts be made available?

- The [NM-MSSA Writing Assessment Resources for Teachers](https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-nm-mssa) document on the Help and Support site, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-nm-mssa>, contains the rubrics as well as many other useful resources.

When is the Text-to-Speech (TTS) available on the NM-MSSA Language Arts online assessment?

- For NM-MSSA Language Arts (both English and Spanish), TTS is only available for Session 2.
- Session 1 tests reading skills and, therefore, does not have TTS for online testing.
- Session 2 tests writing prompts and language usage and, therefore, allows students to access TTS for online testing.
- There is a video tutorial available for text-to-speech functionality during testing for more details on this feature on the help and support site, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/training-tutorials>.

For students with an IEP that provides accommodation for a test to be read to the student, is Text-to-Speech (TTS) available on Session 1 of the NM-MSSA ELA test?

- No. TTS is not available for any student on session one of the NM-MSSA ELA test.
- If an IEP provides accommodation for a test to be read to the student, a human reader will be needed for Session 1 of the online test.
- Refer to the NM-MSSA Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual (AFAM) available on the help and support site, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-accommodations> for additional details.

Math Questions

What is the calculator policy for the NM-MSSA math assessment?

- Please refer to the [NMPED calculator policy](https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-nm-mssa) document posted on the Help and Support site in the Resources Tab for NM-MSSA, within the Policies section, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-nm-mssa>.

Will there be reference sheets on the NM-MSSA math assessment?

- No, there are no reference sheets for the NM-MSSA math assessment.

Will there be rulers and protractors available for the NM-MSSA math assessment?

- If items need the use of protractors or rulers, they have images built into each item itself for the computer-based tests.
- There are no separate rulers or protractors used for math assessments.

Reporting Questions

When will report information be available for students who have completed the NM-MSSA assessment?

- Please refer to the NM-MSSA key dates document available on the help and support site, NM-MSSA Key Dates section, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org>.

Where can I find information about accessing NM-MSSA reports online?

- You can find detailed information about accessing NM-MSSA reports online via *NMPED Assessments Data Interaction Reporting User Guide* available on the Help & Support site Resources tab, computer-based testing section, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-cbt>.

What is the minimum and maximum score for the NM-MSSA language arts and mathematics assessments?

- You can find the [NM-MSSA scale scores document](#) showing both Language Arts and Mathematics scale scores available on the help and support site resources for NM-MSSA reporting.

Aside from the Data Interaction Portal Guide, is there another guide or reference that explains how each column in the item analysis report must be interpreted?

- There is a one-pager document for the *NM-MSSA Item Analysis Report Data Dictionary* available on the help and support site [here](#) within the *Reporting Resources* section for *NM-MSSA Resources*.
- There are additional resources available for NM-MSSA on the help and support site, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-nm-mssa>.
- If you need additional support, please feel free to contact our Client Care team at 1-877-676-6722 or email nmtechsupport@cognia.org.