

## ***NCEXTEND2* Writing Assessment at Grades 4 and 7**

***NCEXTEND2*** for writing is available to eligible students at grades 4 and 7 only. Based on guidance from the United States Department of Education, Federal Register (December 15, 2005) Title I for Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities, and the NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rule Making) dated December 15, 2005, the NCDPI Division of Accountability Services, in conjunction with the NCDPI Exceptional Children's Division, developed guidelines for participation in the ***NCEXTEND2*** Writing Assessment at grades 4 and 7. ***NCEXTEND2*** is based on modified grade-level achievement standards. To determine student participation in the ***NCEXTEND2*** Writing Assessment at grades 4 and 7, the following eligibility requirements must be considered:

- The student must have a current individualized education program (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 NOT** identified as having a significant cognitive disability;
- The student **IS NOT** receiving instruction in the *Standard Course of Study* through the Essences/Extensions;
- The student's progress in response to high-quality instruction is such that the student is not likely to achieve grade level proficiency within the school year covered by the IEP;
- The student's disability has precluded the student from achieving grade level proficiency, as demonstrated by objective evidence, (e.g., results from standardized state tests, IQ tests, achievement tests, aptitude tests, and psychological evaluations. **It is the expectation that more than one objective measure would be used to assist in the evaluation of a student's assessment placement.**); and
- The nature of the student's disability may require assessments that are different in design.

A student may be assessed based on modified grade-level achievement standards in one or more subjects for which assessments are administered. Students eligible to take assessments based on modified grade-level achievement standards may be in any of the 13 disability categories listed in the IDEA. The decision to assess a student based on modified grade-level achievement standards must be reviewed annually as part of the IEP process. The decision to place a student in an assessment based on modified grade-level achievement standards must not preclude a student from earning a regular high school diploma. Parents of these students, 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 in writing based on modified grade-level achievement standards.

## Writing Modes *NCEXTEND2* Writing Assessment

The North Carolina Writing Assessment program requires that the modes of writing assessed at grades 4 and 7 be aligned with each grade's curriculum expectations as specified in the North Carolina *Standard Course of Study*. The *NCEXTEND2* Writing Assessments at grades 4 and 7 will assess writing using the following modes:

Grade Level	Type of Assessment
4	Extended narrative response (personal or imaginative)
7	Extended argumentative response (problem/solution or evaluative)

### **Basic Facts about *NCEXTEND2* Writing Assessment at Grades 4 and 7**

- *NCEXTEND2* Writing is a modified extended response test based on modified (grade-level) achievement standards.
- *NCEXTEND2* Writing is designed for students who have a current Individualized Education Program (IEP) whose progress in response to high-quality instruction is such that the student is not likely to achieve grade level proficiency within the school year covered by the IEP. In addition, the student's disability has precluded the student from achieving grade level proficiency, as demonstrated by objective evidence.
- *NCEXTEND2* Writing uses a modified test format and measures student performance against modified (grade-level) achievement standards in writing at grades 4 and 7.
- Approximately one and one half hours is allotted for this test. This includes time for test administration duties and, where appropriate, scheduled breaks.

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