

Who is eligible to be nominated?

Any student that is not currently accelerated in math or english/language arts can be nominated and considered for SSA to skip elementary or middle school content if the nomination is received prior to the end of the school day for your child’s school calendar nomination window.

School Calendar	Nomination Window	School Testing Window
Wake Leadership Academies	4/1-4/12/2019	4/24-4/30/2019
Modified	4/5-4/18/2019	4/29-5/3/2019
Traditional, Fox Road ES, Carroll MS, East Garner MS, and East Millbrook MS	4/23-5/6/2019	5/14-5/20/2019
YR Track 1	4/15-4/29/2019	5/7-5/13/2019
Track 2	4/16-4/30/2019	5/8-6/7/2019
Track 3, Track 4, Barwell & Walnut Creek ES	5/10-5/23/2019	6/3-6/7/2019

How will students who qualify for SSA be served?

Schools will determine their own delivery of content. For some schools, instruction will be delivered through face-to-face instruction. For 5th graders taking sixth grade content or middle schoolers taking high school content, delivery may be through online instruction. Students may not travel to another school/campus as services must be handled at the student’s assigned school.

How is a student's schedule affected when they participate in SSA?

By participating in SSA, parents are aware that changes in scheduling will be necessary which may result in other off-grade level activities (e.g. other content areas, specials, lunch, recess). Schools are not always able to provide a master schedule with content areas at the same time. Schools will work to create a personalized schedule for students in SSA, needing to access above grade-level curriculum.

Specials, such as Art, Music, and Physical Education, are all part of the NC Standard Course of Study with Essential Standards in each area. To meet NC General Statutes of a comprehensive education, each student must attend specials even if they are participating in SSA. Schools will address scheduling needs on an individual basis.

How will tests be scored? How will scores be reported to schools?

Schools will return their answer documents to TE21 via UPS (pre-printed address label) on the final day of testing for the school calendar. Scores will be reported back to schools within two weeks.

Can a parent nominate his/her child in both subject areas?

No. Parents may nominate their child in **one area only**; Students may **not be nominated in two areas**. A student would take the assessment in the ONE area of nomination. Schools will not be able to accept Nomination Forms if more than one area is checked.

If an 8th grader qualifies for ELA SSA, how will the student access English I?

The student will take English I via North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS). This is the only available option for delivery of instruction. **Note that middle school students do not receive honors credit via NCVPS.** High school courses taken in middle school will not contribute to the student's high school GPA.

If a student transfers into WCPSS after the nomination window for SSA, will the student have the opportunity to take the assessment?

Students who transfer into WCPSS after the nomination window will have the opportunity to take the assessment in spring of the **next school year**. Only students that are currently **enrolled and attending** WCPSS during the nomination and testing window are eligible for consideration of SSA for the following year. SSA only includes a spring testing window. If a student transfers in later in the year, the principal should make a placement decision based on the available information, transcripts, records, etc.

If students nominated for testing have accommodations, do we provide them for the SSA assessments?

Yes. Schools should work with Testing Coordinators to ensure accommodations are provided for students with LEP Plans, IEPs, and/or 504s.

Should the scores on the 1st Grade Mathematics assessments be averaged?

The scores for the 1st Grade Math Summative Assessment **should not be averaged in any way**. Each task is assessing a student's performance on individual standards. In order for a student to be considered for SSA, the student should be proficient on all tasks provided on the assessment. The student **must have a score of 3 (or higher) for each of the individual tasks**, using the rubric provided in the administrator's manual. **Before reporting results to schools, the entire assessment and rubric should be sent to AIG Central Services for review.**

Should only the guided reading scores on the 1st Grade ELA assessments be used for SSA criteria?

From a literacy perspective, the identified focus standards **must be at the proficient level** to be considered for SSA, and the reading level is only one piece of that puzzle. The mClass scoring software should be utilized to compute the overall score to include scores for written comprehension. This ensures the most accurate score to be used for SSA qualifications. Additionally, we know that K-1 are the foundational years for building literacy skills, and students who are not proficient in those basic (focus) standards, will experience difficulty in the upper elementary grades. We have to recognize the rigor and thinking involved in the CCSS, and we should ensure that students have a foundation to build upon. Kindergarten students looking to skip first grade ELA must meet the criteria for both a fiction and a nonfiction text. **Before reporting results to schools, the screen shots from mClass and the corresponding student written responses should be sent to AIG Central Services for review.**

Who should grade the written portion and determine final score of 1st grade assessment for a child who is nominated for SSA?

The assessment will be graded by at least two scorers. If the scorers do not independently score it the same way, a third scorer should review and score the response.

Is it possible to get a more detailed report from Case 21 to show scores on specific standards?

No, Case 21 will not provide us with an item analysis for SSA. Scores will be reported back to schools as a percent correct on the accelerated assessment.

Which teacher is responsible for the gaps in instruction since they have to take the grade level EOG?

By requesting SSA, parents understand that students will not receive direct instruction on the content they are skipping. While supports may be put in place for identified gaps, this will not include direct instruction and likely will include some type of independent activities.

What about ADM requirements in K-2?

Since it is not an all-day placement, it should not impact the class size limits.

What if a student is pulled out of SSA mid-year?

Students will get grades for the class to which they are assigned until the placement changes.

Who can make the decision to remove the student from the SSA class?

It should be a collaborative decision between the parent and the school to return the student to their grade-level content. If a student is struggling with the course, an intervention plan should be initiated and documented.

Which EOG will an SSA student take?

It is a state mandate that students take the EOG for the grade to which they are assigned.

What are district expectations for taking any grade-level benchmarks during the school year.

Our expectation is that students will take benchmarks for the course they are currently taking so that those scores can help to guide instruction.