

2250-Board Policy on Student Testing, Incentives & Associated Grading

This policy is established in the spirit of encouraging and supporting NCCS students to approach standardized testing seriously, and to create a testing environment that provides students with the best opportunity to perform well while completing important assessment activities.

Area 1: Standardized Testing Protocol.

- A. **Annual Meeting.** On an annual basis, and prior to the administration of required fall PM1 FAST assessment administration, NCCS will host a parent informational night to provide an overview of the testing plan for the year, to inform parents on expectations and scheduling procedures, and to provide parents with strategies that they can use at home to help their students perform as well as possible.
- B. **Scheduling by Committee.** NCCS will use a committee process to develop the testing schedule each time that the FAST is given during the year (3 times). Students that are eligible, and would benefit from 1 to 1 or small group testing will be scheduled accordingly, with said accommodation(s) appropriately recorded in existing student IEPs and/or 504 plans. In accordance with required practice, parents/guardians will be involved with any testing plan modifications either by formal IEP/504 meeting, or by approved plan adjustments signed by the parent/guardian.
- C. **Practice Tests.** The NCCS Test Scheduling Committee will ensure that each schedule contain a plan for all test administrators to conduct “practice” testing, using the state-provided tools. This will ensure that students are familiar with the style, format (paper and/or computer based) and tools that will be available to them during the testing sessions.
- D. **Lack of Effort.** When students are identified by teachers as not taking standardized testing seriously and/or demonstrating a significant lack of effort to do their best, a meeting with parent(s)/guardian(s) will be scheduled to ensure that expectations are made clear to all. These meetings preferably, should be in person; however, phone and/or other electronic meeting format (such as Teams, Zoom or Facetime) may also be held to meet this requirement. It is an expectation in the NCCS Parent/Student Compact that students give their best effort(s) at all times while attending our school.
- E. **Breakfast.** The school will provide free breakfast to students during all spring state testing sessions.

Area 2: Incentives.

- A. **End of Year Celebrations.** Beginning in May, 2025, NCCS will plan and conduct age-appropriate end of year celebration parties/events (e.g. glow and/or dance party or field day) to recognize students who make Wildly Important Goal (WIG) learning gains and/or pass the state PM3 assessment in any content area, and that demonstrate improvement or honor roll level grades in the classroom in any core subject. Tangible awards will be provided, and students will be entered into a drawing for prizes in accordance with item B, below.

- B. Annual Prize Drawings.** NCCS will provide and/or seek contributions or prizes from local businesses to put on public display in advance of spring testing (PM3), for which students making either learning gains (e.g. meeting WIG goals) OR receive a passing score (3, 4 or 5), or other core subject improvements or honor roll level grades, shall receive a certain number of entry chances for the prize drawings. All students invited to an end of year celebration will receive at least one entry for prize drawings. The number of entries provided to each student shall correspond to the number of reasons they are invited to the celebration for, with entries for FAST learning gains or proficiency scores calculated as follows: 1 entry for a learning gain, and additional entries for a level 3, 4 or 5 score on any FAST assessment completed.
- C. School-Wide and Classroom Incentive Programs.** Beginning in the 2025-2026 SY, NCCS will offer “Stingray Bucks” for defined purposes, either within a formal Positive Behavior and Intervention Support (PBIS) Program, or locally-developed initiative focusing on academic recognitions as well. A core component of this program will be a mobile “School Store” that will be staffed by volunteers and offered on a regular basis. The administration will work with staff to identify focus areas and other opportunities for students to spend or redeem their Stingray Bucks. Teachers at NCCS are encouraged, but not required to offer either a token economy system of rewards or special reward times (such as “Fun Fridays”) that are age-appropriate and aligned to the mission and vision of the school. Planning for the school-wide system will also involve ways to integrate Stingray Bucks at the classroom level.

Area 3: Grading.

- A. Value-Added Grade Adjustments.** Beginning in 2025-26, upper grade (3rd through 5th) students at NCCS will receive "value-added" adjustments to class grades for state testing results of up to 5 points added to final grades within the second and fourth marking periods for passing FAST scores or accomplishment of growth and/or learning gains/WIG goals. The end of year calculations will be made as follows: 2 points added for a learning gain (spring only), 3 points for a level 3, 4 points for a level 4 and 5 points for a level 5 score. Teachers will also always have the option to assign participation grades in their gradebooks for student preparedness and participation as expected during any testing session.

****Note: Students making adequate progress toward achievement of academic IEP goals may have scale adjustments applied by their ESE teacher, or in consultation with the Resource Specialist, resulting in recognitions, awards or incentives enumerated herein.**

Adopted: March 27, 2025