

[District Name]

[District Address]

[Date]

Dear Families,

The North Dakota Academic Progression of Learning and Understanding of Students or ND A-PLUS (ND A+) is a new, connected system of assessments that includes state-provided interim assessments designed to help us monitor and better understand your student's academic growth throughout the year.

What Are the ND A+ Interim Assessments?

The ND A+ Interim Assessments are short, untimed online assessments in reading and math that take approximately 35 minutes to complete.

- In grades K-2 and 9, ND A+ Interim Assessments are administered three times a year – in the fall, the winter, and the spring.
- In grades 3-8 and 10, ND A+ Interim Assessments are administered in the fall and winter, followed by the ND A+ Summative Assessment in the spring.

What Do These Assessments Tell You?

ND A+ Interim Assessments provide a snapshot of how well your student is performing in reading and math at key points during the school year. For students in grades 3-8, reports also include Lexile scores for reading and Quantile scores for math. A link will be included in your student's report to access helpful resources you can use at home to support your student's learning.

How Are the Results Used?

The ND A+ Interim Assessment reports contain information to support conversations between families and teachers about your student's learning. Because ND A+ Interim Assessments measures academic growth, the results help show how much progress your student has made from fall to winter and winter to spring.

These conversations can help address questions you may have, such as:

1. My student has shown strong progress in math but not as much in reading. What can I do at home to support his or her reading?
2. My student seems to be doing well in both subjects. What enrichment opportunities and activities are available to keep him or her challenged and engaged?
3. My student seems to be struggling with Geometry and Measurement. Are there specific resources or supports the school can offer within this area?

Helping Your Student Prepare

We understand that assessments can sometimes cause anxiety or stress. ND A+ Interim Assessments are meant to offer opportunities for students to show what they know and can do at various points in the year.

You can support your student by:

- Encouraging them to try their best so that you and their teacher can track their progress and support them in any areas where they may need help.
- Ensuring they get a good night's sleep before testing.
- Providing a healthy breakfast on testing days.

Remember: These Assessments Are One Piece of the Puzzle

ND A+ Interim Assessments are just one part of how we understand your student's learning and progress. Teachers also use classroom participation, observations, assignments, grades, and other information to get a complete picture of your student's academic needs and determine how best to support your student.

If you have questions about the ND A+ assessments or your student's progress, please reach out to your student's teacher. We appreciate your continued partnership in supporting your student's learning journey.

Sincerely,

[District Representative]