

The Nova Scotia Assessment Development Model

1 ASSESSMENT PLAN AND TIME LINE

Develop table of specifications

This table ensures that the assessment is matched to the curriculum.

Develop items

Assessment questions are developed and vetted for bias and fairness.

Prepare field test material

An advisory group works together to prepare items for field testing.

2 FIELD TESTING

Select student sample

Schools are selected from all areas of the province to participate in the field tests.

Prepare field test administrators

Field tests are administered by a trained team of teachers with subject area expertise.

Administer field test and score

Field tests are administered and scored using departmental guidelines.

3 REFINEMENT

Analyse items

Results of field test items are analysed.

Refine items

Based on the results of the item analysis, questions or tasks are refined or omitted.

Finalize items

Assessment forms and support documents are finalized.

4 ADMINISTRATION

Prepare administrators

An information guide, practice materials, and website link provide teachers with information about administration, scoring, and reporting.

Administer assessment

Each assessment is administered according to departmental guidelines.

Score assessment

Assessments are scored using departmental procedures.

5 REPORTING

Prepare technical and analytical reports

Assessments are scanned, and individual student reports are returned to teachers, parents, and guardians; technical and analytical reports are prepared.

Prepare other reports

The Minister's Report to Parents and Guardians, school board reports, research reports, etc., are prepared.

Follow up with public schools branch divisions

Assessment results inform instructional planning, school-based decision making, and targeted funding.