

Nimble Tools®

Nimble Tools® will once again be available during the Spring 2011 NECAP Science Test:

The NECAP states (NH, VT, and RI) have received new federal funding to continue research and development work with Nimble Innovation Lab/ Measured Progress. Through this project, an accessible computer-based test system (NimbleTools) will be available for those students in grades 4, 8, and 11 who have needs for access supports that can be met by using online tools to take the Spring 2011 NECAP Science test.

This will be the *fifth* year that schools will be using these access tools: (NimbleTools was previously used with the spring NECAP science testing in 2009 and 2010, and Fall 2010 NECAP Reading and Mathematics). NimbleTools was used by over 2600 New England students during the Spring 2009 and 2010 NECAP Science Tests.

NimbleTools provides universal access to test content by embedding accessibility and accommodation tools directly into the items as they are presented to students online. Accommodation tools are assigned for each student by his or her teacher based on the needs of the student. During the 2011 NECAP Science administration, survey data will be collected from all participating teachers (who assign accommodations) and their students to understand decision making processes in access tool assignment and use.

Online Access Tools – What are they?

Examples of access tools available through this software include but are not limited to: Read-aloud testing administered discretely through headphones, talking science reference tools, multiple levels of visual magnification, background calming music, masking of parts of the screen to reduce visual overload, color overlays, ‘one-item at a time’ presentation, and other tools that give students a sense of support and individual control during the test taking experience.

School Principals or Designated School Test Coordinators:

If you are interested in allowing students in your school to use NimbleTools® to take the Grade 4, 8, or 11 NECAP Science assessment, you must **do 2 things on or before April 8th:**

1. Fill out an *Interest Notification Form* for your school online at: www.nimbletools.com/necap , and
2. Register for the *15 minute WebEx session that is required for school participation* at the bottom of the online form. WebEx sessions will be held at 9am and 1pm on April 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13.
3. After attending a WebEx session, schools will be sent the necessary information to prepare for testing (including a load test to see that your computer system can support this tool), to register participating students, and to assign tools for their use during the test.

Please note that the NimbleTools website (www.nimbletools.com/necap) contains complete information about NimbleTools, including grade 4, 8 and 11 practice tests.

For more information on NimbleTools:

Please email saas@measuredprogress.org or call (877) 636-0371.

* NimbleTools is a registered trademark of Nimble Assessment Systems Inc, a subsidiary of Measured Progress.