

Northstar Digital Literacy: Assessing Digital Skills

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Literacy Minnesota



Why?



What is Digital Equity?

Digital Equity creates conditions in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for:

- Civic and cultural participation
- Employment
- Lifelong learning
- Access to essential services



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Northstar Digital Literacy



- Program of Literacy Minnesota – non-profit working on adult literacy for over 50 years
- Mission: To help individuals around the world master the digital skills needed to work, learn, and participate fully in daily life
- Assessments and educational tools for foundational computer skills
- Used by 3262 organizations in 50 states, 12 countries
- Over 8.8 million total assessments given
- Available in English and Spanish



Northstar History and Philosophy



- Started at request of local library
- Standards based
- Accessible
 - Grade 4 Reading Level
 - Web based
- National reach
- Subscription model pays for maintenance

Assessments



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Essential Computer Skills

- Basic Computer
- [Internet basics](#)
- Using Email
- Windows 10
- Windows 11
- Mac OS

Essential Software

- Microsoft Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Google Docs

Using Technology in Daily Life

- Social Media
- Information Literacy
- Career Search Skills
- [Accessing Telehealth Appointments](#)
- Your Digital Footprint
- Supporting K-12 Distance Learning

Coming Up

- CyberSecurity – end of year
- Basic Computer being made mobile friendly

**Those listed in blue are also Mobile Friendly*



Assess Skills



ABOUTFEATURESPRICINGBUILD YOUR SKILLSCONTACT US

LOGIN

Northstar Digital Literacy gives subscribing organizations the ability to increase access to digital equity by providing constituents with tools to master the digital skills needed to work, learn, and participate fully in daily life.

Assessments

Online, self-guided assessments measure basic skills in each of 16 areas, allowing individuals to identify current skills and opportunities for learning new skills. [Learn more.](#)

TRY AN ASSESSMENT NOW

Education

Educational materials provide for self-guided online learning, one-on-one digital navigation, and instructor-led classes. Northstar standards define the basic skills needed to perform tasks on computers and online.

LEARN MORE

Reports

Individuals and instructors see progress and opportunities for learning, including organizational statistics on number of learners, number of assessments, and percentage of assessments passed.


LEARN MORE



Sample Question




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Accessing Telehealth Appointments

PUBLIC VERSION ?




> 4. The doctor cannot hear Luis! Click the button to fix the problem.



 Unmute  Stop video  Chat  Participants

4 / 21

I DON'T KNOW



Results Page



> Your Results

You've completed the assessment! After reviewing your results, close this browser tab/window to start another module.

You Passed!

85.8 %

How is my score calculated?

Go to NSOL

Claim Badge

Print Results

Name: Theresa Sladek

Timestamp: Aug 18 2020, 4:43 PM

Record ID: 7632709

Code: 7d26f5822d33

Correct (29 out of 34)

MASTERED SKILLS

Incorrect (5 out of 34)

SKILLS TO IMPROVE

1

Identify the different ways a person can connect to the internet.

Practice

2

Demonstrate knowledge of

Practice

5

Demonstrate understanding of how to use browser tools and settings to protect privacy (e.g., private browser windows, clearing search history, and declining to save passwords on shared computers).

Practice

A decorative footer bar consisting of three horizontal stripes: a top orange stripe, a middle green stripe, and a bottom blue stripe.

Learner Report Details – Staff View



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Open Door Learning C...
View Learners View Usage Amounts

Learners Assessments Reports Location Info Resources My Locations Theresa Sladek

Theresa Sladek

History » Internet (New)

Theresa needs improvement in 4 standards based on the **last time** they took this assessment (5 months ago).

Status on Assessment	Standard	Practice Status
✗	5 Demonstrate understanding of how to use browser tools and settings to protect privacy (e.g., private browser windows, clearing search history, and declining to save passwords on shared computers).	✓ Practice completed
✗	6 Demonstrate understanding of when it's safe and appropriate to share personal, private, or financial information (e.g., recognizing phishing attempts, identifying unsecured websites).	✓ Practice completed
✗	7 Identify ways to protect your devices (e.g., anti-malware software, recognizing possible virus attacks).	✓ Practice completed
✗	15 Identify and work with tabs and windows.	Practice incomplete: Staying organized

Theresa has mastered 13 standards based on the **last time** they took this assessment (5 months ago).

Status on Assessment	Standard	Practice Status
✓	1 Identify the different ways a person can connect to the internet.	Practice incomplete: Connecting to the internet
✓	2 Demonstrate knowledge of browsers and identify commonly used browsers.	Practice incomplete:



Digital Equity Act



- Part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- \$2.75 billion over five years
- Administered through the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
- Funding through state and federal agencies



State Digital Equity Plan



Must include:

- (A) **measurable objectives** for documenting and promoting...
 - (A) the availability of and affordability of access to broadband
 - (B) the online accessibility and inclusivity of public...services
 - (C) **digital literacy**
 - (D) the use of measures to ensure individual online privacy and cybersecurity
 - (E) the availability and affordability of consumer devices and technical support for those devices



Assessment Psychometrics



- Northstar Digital Literacy Assessments First Look Technical Report
 - In collaboration with John Sabatini at the University of Memphis
 - In draft form
 - Describes technical characteristics and analyses in support of the use of the Northstar Assessments for practical and research applications
 - Includes results of reliability and validity analyses
- Grant Proposal Submitted
 - “Enhancing and Validating a Widely Used, Multi-dimensional Assessment of Adult Digital Literacy Skills” to be submitted as a Measurement Type, Postsecondary and Adult Education topic to the Institute of Education Sciences research grant program (84.305A)

Emphasis on Partners



- Public schools
- Public or multi-family housing authorities
- Libraries
- Medical or healthcare providers
- Community colleges or other institutions of higher education
- Other nonprofit or governmental community support organizations
- Workforce/Businesses/ISPs

Contact Information



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