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

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

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

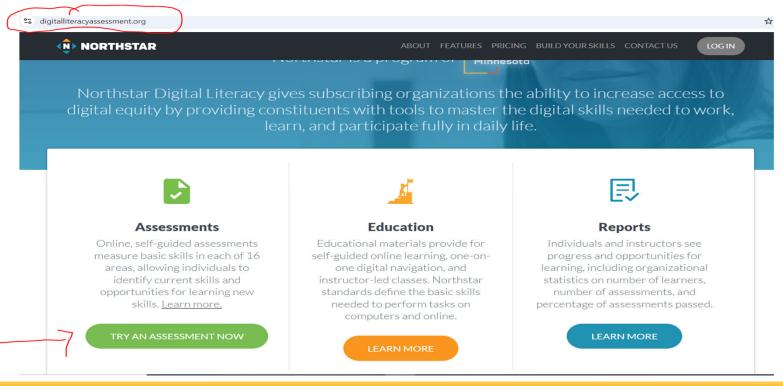
Coming Up

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

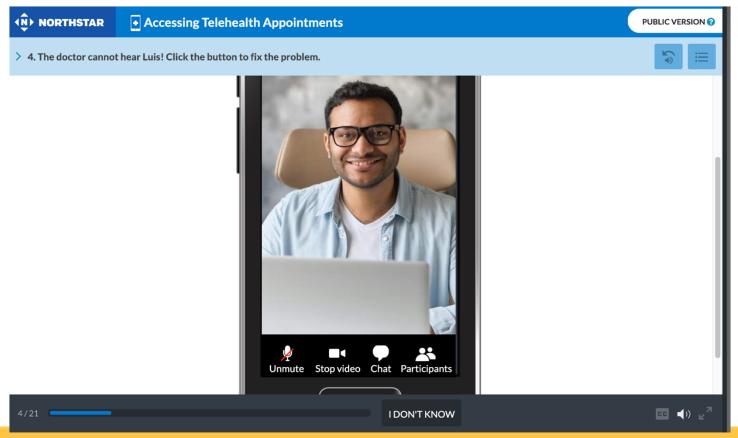
*Those listed in blue are also Mobile Friendly

Assess Skills





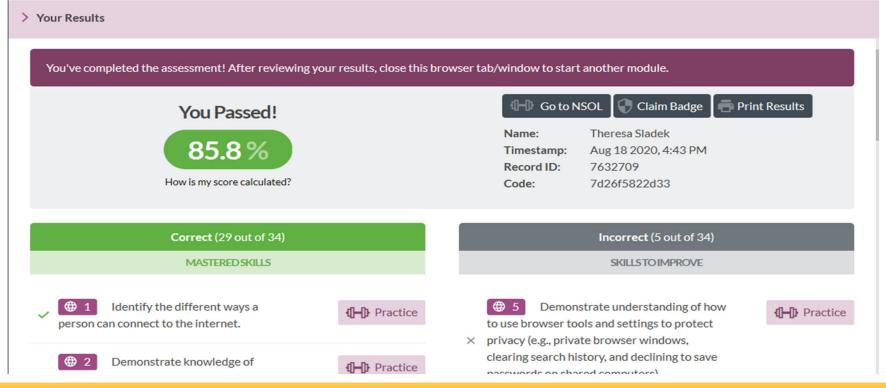
Sample Question





Results Page





Learner Report Details - Staff View





◆ Open Door Learning C...

History » (New)

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

Status on Assessment		
×		
×	① 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			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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Northstar Digital Literacy Website

https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/