

How **National Heritage Academies** Delivers State-Aligned Assessments Across **100+ Schools**



DISTRICT	STATES	GRADES	INTERVIEW
National Heritage Academies	9 States Across the U.S.	K-12	Sarah Vogel, M.Ed., Director of Academic Operations, Curriculum & Instruction, National Heritage Academies

Key Insights



Partnership Drives Success

A responsive technology partner has been essential to supporting NHA's evolving instructional and operational needs.



Familiarity Builds Confidence

Students build confidence by practicing year-round in digital environments that mirror their state assessments.



Consistency at Scale

NHA delivers consistent assessments across 100+ schools in 9 states while adapting to state-specific requirements.



Data Informs Instruction

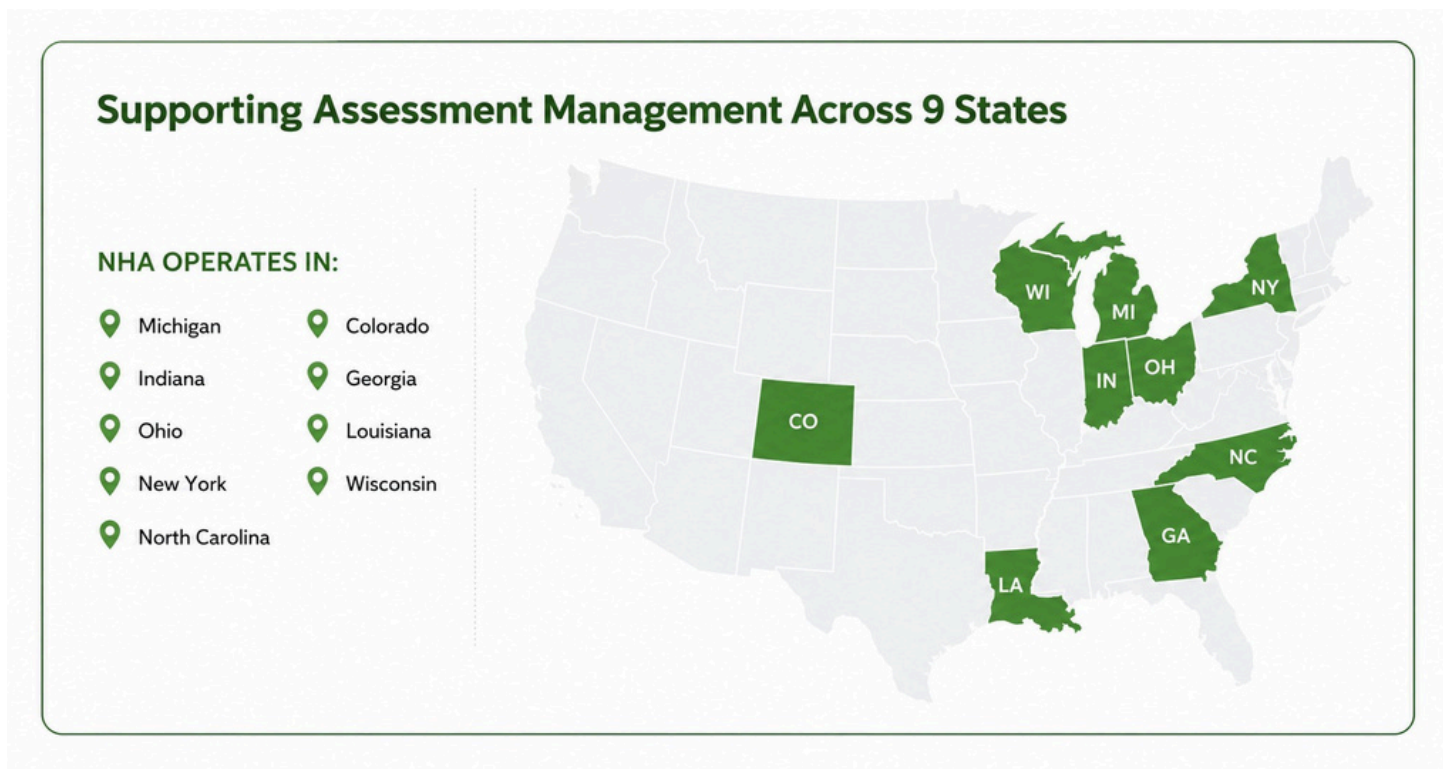
Integrated assessment data gives teachers and leaders timely insights to make informed instructional decisions.

Building a Multi-State Assessment System

National Heritage Academies serves more than 65,000 K–12 students across 100+ schools in nine states. As online testing became the norm, NHA needed an assessment platform that could balance centralized consistency with state-specific flexibility.



NHA wanted students to regularly experience digital assessments that mirrored their state testing environments so technology familiarity would never become a barrier to demonstrating content knowledge.



After evaluating multiple digital assessment platforms, NHA selected Edcite in 2018.

Why NHA Chose Edcite

1. Technology-Enhanced Items

Supports the digital question types used in state assessments.

2. Flexible Assessment Creation

Build and manage assessments across grades, subjects, and states.

3. State Test Alignment

Mirrors testing environments across multiple states.

4. Custom SIS Integration

Connects seamlessly with NHA's internal student information systems.

5. Responsive Partnership

Adapts to NHA's evolving instructional and operational needs.

Today, Edcite supports more than 5,000 unique assessments across NHA's network.

Supporting State-Specific Assessment Experiences at Scale

One of the biggest challenges for a multi-state network is balancing centralized assessment management with the unique requirements of individual states.

At NHA, Curriculum & Instruction content specialists design common assessments aligned to state standards, curriculum expectations, and instructional pacing. Assessments range from weekly quizzes and unit tests to larger interim assessments used to monitor student growth and proficiency.

Because NHA operates across multiple states, assessments often need to support different standards and testing expectations simultaneously.

Edcite helps make this possible by allowing NHA to:



Organize by Grade, Subject & State

Keep assessments organized across the network.



Apply State Standards

Associate the correct standards with every assessment.



Deliver State-Specific Assessments

Display the appropriate content based on student location.



Centralized Assessment Management

Manage everything from one central platform.

Together, these capabilities allow NHA to manage a single assessment library while automatically delivering the correct experience for every student.



One assessment. Multiple states.

Automatically displays the
correct standards for **every student**.

A single assessment can support multiple states while automatically displaying the appropriate standards for each student. This enables NHA to streamline assessment management while maintaining state-specific alignment and reporting.

An **Academic Operations team** manages the organization and distribution of assessments within Edcite, ensuring teachers only see assessments relevant to their courses and classrooms. This **centralized structure** helps simplify implementation for educators while maintaining consistency across the network.

Reducing Technology Barriers for Students

One of NHA's primary goals was ensuring students felt comfortable and confident in digital testing environments before state testing began. Rather than relying on separate state-provided practice tests, students regularly use Edcite throughout the school year, making the state testing experience feel familiar.

According to Sarah Vogel, M.Ed., Director of Academic Operations for Curriculum & Instruction at NHA, this approach has helped:

Reduce Student Test Anxiety

Help students feel more confident in digital assessments.

Eliminate Technology Barriers

Remove friction from unfamiliar tools and workflows.

Build Digital Testing Familiarity

Increase comfort with the platforms students will see on test day.

Return Instructional Time to Classrooms

Free up teachers to focus more time on learning.

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**Taking the state test
feels like taking any
other assessment
throughout the year.”**



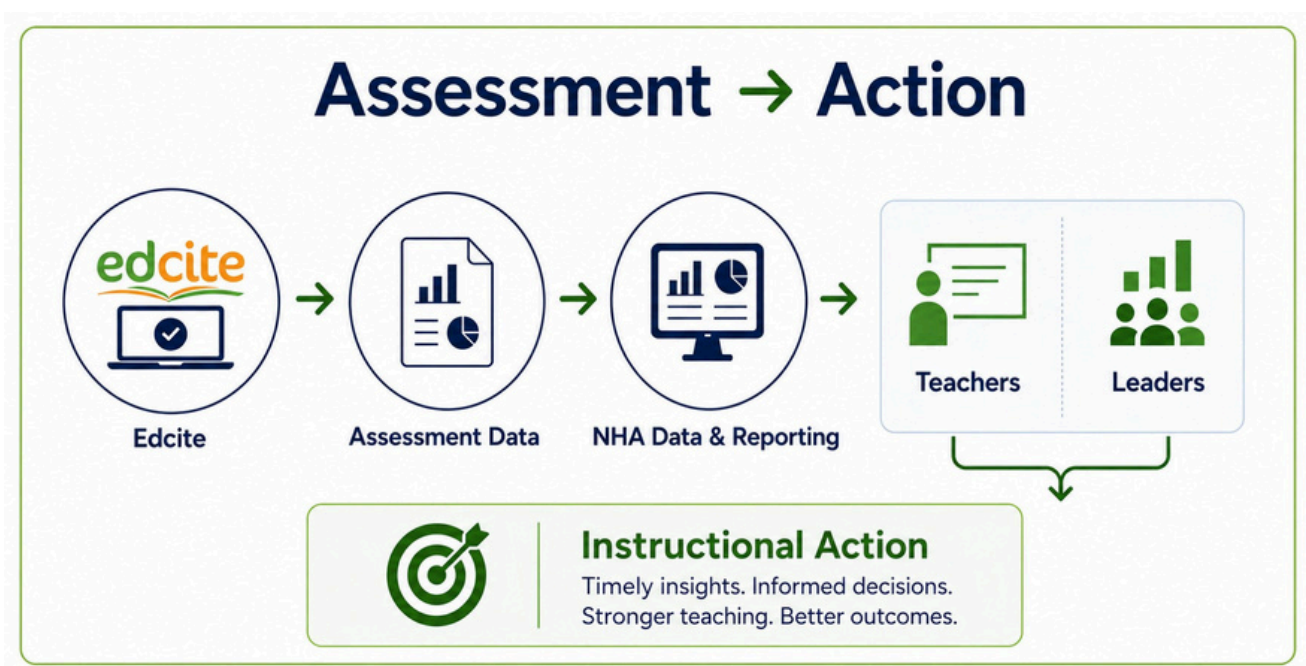
Sarah Vogel, M.Ed.

Director of Academic Operations
Curriculum & Instruction
National Heritage Academies

This consistency allows educators to focus more on student learning and less on preparing students to navigate unfamiliar testing platforms.

Turning Assessment Data Into Action

Assessment data powers instructional decision-making across NHA's instructional system. Through direct integration with NHA's student information systems and Clever rostering, assessment results flow seamlessly into internal reporting systems, giving teachers and school leaders timely insights that support instructional decisions across the organization.



Teachers and school leaders use this data to:

Monitor Student Growth

Track progress over time across classrooms and schools.

Identify Learning Gaps

Pinpoint instructional needs early.

Measure Interim Performance

Monitor proficiency throughout the school year.

Analyze Proficiency Trends

Identify patterns that inform instructional planning.

Drive Instructional Action

Make better instructional decisions.

Timely assessment data. Faster instructional decisions.

Weekly assessments provide immediate insight into student learning, allowing teachers to respond sooner instead of waiting for larger interim checkpoints.

This creates a more responsive instructional cycle while also supporting broader organizational goals around academic rigor and student growth.

Partnership as a Foundation for Successful Implementation

For NHA, one of the most valuable aspects of the Edcite relationship has been the partnership itself. Managing assessments across more than 100 schools in nine states requires more than software. It requires responsiveness, adaptability, and a platform that evolves alongside changing organizational needs.

Throughout that partnership, Edcite has supported NHA across every stage of its assessment strategy, including the following areas:

Complex Operations

Supports large-scale assessment workflows.

Assessment Security

Keeps proprietary assessments protected.

Year-Over-Year Management

Simplifies annual assessment rollover.

Custom Integrations

Connects with NHA's reporting systems.

Long-Term Partnership

Continues to evolve alongside NHA's needs.

As educational technology and assessment expectations continue to evolve, NHA views long-term partnership as critical to successful implementation.

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“The Edcite/NHA partnership has provided a quality framework and model for how we expect other vendors to partner with us.”



Sarah Vogel, M.Ed.
Director of Academic Operations
Curriculum & Instruction
National Heritage Academies

Exploring AI-Assisted Grading

This year, NHA partnered with Edcite on an AI-assisted grading pilot focused on constructed response questions in English Language Arts (ELA). The goal was to reduce teacher grading time while improving scoring consistency, feedback quality, and instructional efficiency.

The pilot demonstrated how AI can support teachers by streamlining grading workflows while keeping educators in control of final scoring decisions. Following the pilot, NHA plans to expand AI-assisted grading to all grades 3–12 ELA teachers during the 2026–27 school year.

Writing Pilot - Grade 5 Performance Task

Q1 Part A

10 Points

Apply Grading

Close All

Prompt:

Student Directions

The Dust Bowl: Life in the Great Plains Performance Task

You will now review your notes and sources and plan, draft, revise, and edit your writing. You may use your notes and go back to the sources. Read your

☒	Student Name	Student Work	Total Score	Feedback
☒	Student One	The Dust Bowl had devastating effects on both the land and the people living in the Great Plains. One major cause was the lack of rainfall, which led to severe drought conditions. According to the committee letter, the region already had low rainfall, but farming practices like overcropping and overgrazing made the land more vulnerable. Without strong roots to hold the soil in place, the dry dirt turned into dust. These environmental conditions created massive dust storms that damaged homes and made it difficult to breathe. In the interview, the speaker explains how dust covered everything, including food and water, making daily life extremely difficult. This forced many families to leave their homes and migrate to places like California in search of better opportunities.	7	You clearly introduced the Dust Bowl's causes and explained its impact, which helps readers understand the topic. To improve, add specific details from the poem and include citations like "Source #1" so your evidence is clear, and use more transition words. Great effort—keep building your writing skills!

According to NHA, the pilot demonstrated several key benefits:

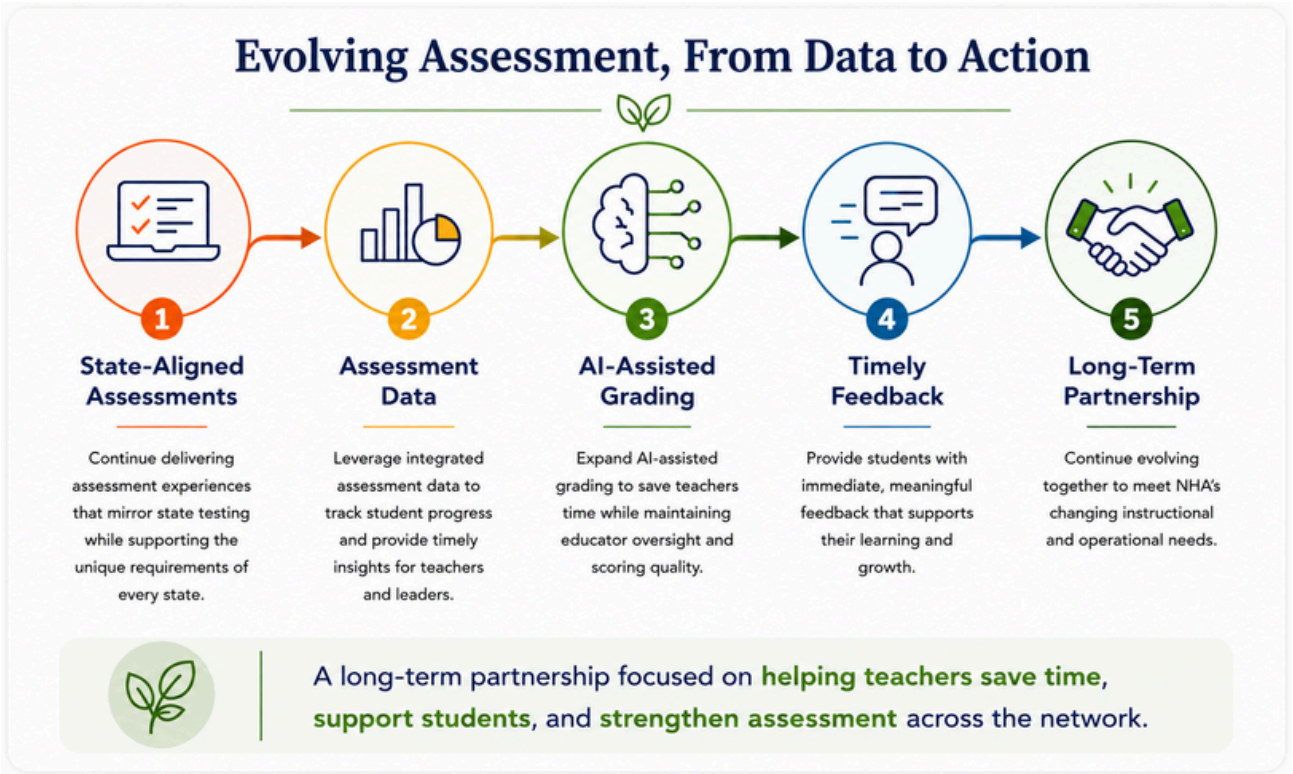
Save Teacher Time Reduce grading workload for written responses.	Improve Scoring Consistency Support more consistent and unbiased scoring practices.	Deliver AI Feedback Provide students with immediate, meaningful feedback.	Support New Teachers Help novice teachers grade with greater confidence.	Expand Across the Network Rolling out to all grades 3–12 ELA teachers in 2026–27.
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The success of the pilot reinforced NHA's confidence in AI-assisted grading as part of its long-term assessment strategy. As the program expands across the network, Edcite will continue helping NHA save teachers time, deliver high-quality feedback, and keep the focus on student learning.

Looking Ahead

As digital assessments, AI, and educational technology continue to evolve, NHA views flexibility, innovation, and long-term partnership as essential. With a strong assessment infrastructure already in place, the organization is expanding how technology supports instruction, feedback, and student outcomes at scale.

Together, NHA and Edcite continue building an assessment ecosystem that combines state-aligned assessments, integrated data, AI-assisted grading, timely feedback, and long-term collaboration to support educators today while adapting to tomorrow's instructional needs.



Together, these capabilities continue helping NHA evolve its assessment strategy while supporting educators across every stage of implementation.

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“Edcite has allowed NHA a digital assessment platform that meets our custom needs across a network of **100+ schools in 9 states**, serving over **65,000 K–12 students**. The Edcite platform closely mimics the state test platform, removing technology barriers while allowing us to provide **thousands of our own NHA-created assessments** that meet the needs of classrooms across all nine states. Edcite has provided a way for our NHA assessment strategy to go **from a vision to reality.**”

SARAH VOGEL, M.ED.

*Director of Academic Operations,
Curriculum & Instruction, National Heritage Academies*

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Ready to Build an Assessment System That Works at Scale?

See how Edcite helps schools and districts manage assessments across classrooms, schools, and states while delivering consistent, state-aligned experiences and actionable data for educators.

[Schedule a Personalized Demo](#)



Scan to schedule
your demo