

**THE 2010 IAA IS TO BE ADMINISTERED WITHIN THE
SINGLE FOUR WEEK TESTING WINDOW
February 22 – March 19, 2010
Grades 3-8 and 11**

NEW THIS YEAR

- A. The score sheet will be included in each test booklet as well as on the IAA website and in the 2010 Implementation Manual. Make as many copies as necessary for recordkeeping. This score sheet includes room for documenting the following new requirement along with scores and other information collected in previous years.
- B. Teachers are required to document the following information on testing accommodations in SchoolSuccess:
- Prior to entering scores in the online system, the teacher must enter the **testing accommodations** documented in the student's annual IEP.
 - After entering scores in each subject area, the teacher is required to note the **testing accommodations** actually used during the IAA administration of that subject.
 - A list of the accommodation categories to be documented may be found on p. 23 of the 2010 Implementation Manual.
- C. Since this is the first year that testing accommodations are being requested, students' IEP documents may not reflect this information at the present time. IEP teams are advised to begin documenting the testing accommodations for use with the individual student in all annual IEPs or through the use of Form 34-57G: *Parent/Guardian Notification of Individualized Education Program Amendment*.

2010 IAA Q&As

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Student Assessment Division relies upon the professional judgment of teachers who administer the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA). ISBE is confident that teachers will make appropriate adaptations and provide access to the IAA through the students' modes of communication in presentation of the tasks and accurate recording of the responses. In order to assist teachers, ISBE has provided the following list of questions that were submitted during the 2010 IAA Teacher Training webinars on December 2-3, 2009. Additional questions may be added after the webinar and in-person trainings in January, 2010.

1. If a teaching/testing adaptation I use with a student everyday (hand-over-hand, signing end punctuation, highlighting the student's work) is used on the IAA, I

believe it will give a strong clue to the correct answers. What do I do now? May I use hand-over-hand to guide a student during task presentation or response?

Focusing the attention of a student is essential for access to the test. Directed movements such as hand-over-hand may be used in presenting the primary tasks, general prompts, and answer choices. Hand-over-hand **MAY NOT** be used to guide students during the responses. Responses must be indicated by the student independently (eye gaze, buttons, mechanical or manual indicator).

Sign Language must not be used to cue the students during administration or recording of responses. If a student is accustomed to having text signed to them, please avoid signing the portions of the text or answers that could otherwise be determined by the student through the use of sight (for example, signing the ending punctuation when the purpose of the task is that the child accurately indicates the correct ending punctuation).

Student pages should not be highlighted. The teacher is encouraged to assist the student to focus on the task in other ways.

2. Do I send all the adapted materials I used back to Pearson with the test booklets?

Return only the student test booklets (used and unused) to Pearson. Adapted materials, answer sheets, etc. should not be returned. While the adaptations you make will not be used again on the IAA in future years, please use them in your classrooms if they are pertinent and helpful to your students. Please shred any leftover adapted materials or answer sheets that you cannot use.

3. What if I think the student is guessing? What if the student has the habit of always pointing to the item on the right? Should I change the position of the answer choices?

Guessing is a test taking skill that all students use on the IAA, ISAT, or PSAE. ISBE does not discourage student guessing on the standard assessments. If your student habitually points to a certain response, **DO NOT CHANGE THE ORDER OF THE ANSWER CHOICES**. The IAA accounts for such behavior by randomly reordering the position of the correct answers on the tasks. There will be times when the student points to a correct answer and thereby, scores well. The opposite outcome will be true on other tasks.

4. What if the student answers before I have completed reading the task and the answer choices?

All students should be given the advantage of hearing all the information before the teacher records the response. If you know your student is one who tends to “jump in” early or before you have finished reading the scripted task, please use the methods you employ in everyday instruction to prevent this behavior (for example, hold the student’s hands away from materials until you have finished giving the information).

5. What should the teacher do on Feb. 8, 2010? What should the teacher do on Feb. 22, 2010?

IAA testing materials will be arriving in the districts on Feb. 8th. Look for your coordinator to be distributing these to you this week. The teacher will not receive a user name and password to access the online scoring system until the coordinator has set up that teacher's account and classroom. The coordinators receive access to the system on Feb. 1st. If you have not received your user name and password during the week of Feb. 8th please contact your coordinator.

As soon as you have access to the online system, please check that your teacher account and classroom is accurate and complete. If children are placed in your classroom who are not yours or if a child is missing, contact your coordinator. Only coordinators may add new students to the online scoring system.

The testing is from February 22 – March 19, 2010. DO NOT begin the testing or record scores on SchoolSuccess prior to February 22, 2010.

6. Who can administer the test? Who can score the test?

As you will note in the 2010 Implementation Manual, certified personnel may administer and score the IAA (administrators, social workers, psychologists, counselors, speech pathologists, teachers). A paraprofessional, one-on-one aide, or teacher's aide may administer the IAA as long as one of the above certified persons observes and scores the test.

7. Why should I enter scores as I complete them? What about a student who does not complete all the tasks? What if the student does not complete any of the test?

In 2009, over 14,000 students were assessed with the IAA. Waiting until the last few days to record scores may cause teachers the unnecessary stress of dealing with a slower system that impedes the input of the scores. It is recommended that scores be entered as the tasks are given to the student. The scoring system allows the teacher to keep track of what is completed and what still needs to be done. The online scoring system closes at 11:59 p.m. on March 19, 2010. If scores are not entered by that date, the opportunity to enter the scores is lost.

The IAA is not a timed test. However, if a student does not complete all the tasks in a subject within the four week testing window, the teacher should submit the scores for those items that were completed. The student will be given credit for those answers and the district will NOT be penalized because of absent scores. The district will receive credit for participation even if it is an incomplete test.

There is no code to enter if a student does not complete a portion of the test. There is a non-participation code on SchoolSuccess if the student does not complete any of the test.

8. What if the IEP team changes a student to the IAA before my district's testing window but after January 8, 2010? What do I do if that happens and I have no materials for the student?

The IEP team may make decisions on the type of state assessment during the IEP team meeting or by utilizing the IEP amendment form for changes between annual IEP meetings. If you are not able to share test booklets you already have for that new student's grade level, you should notify your coordinator to order a grade level test booklet for that student. If you already have booklets for the same grade level, ask the coordinator to order the same form that you already have. This will allow you to use the same adaptations you've already prepared (if necessary for that student).

9. Can I highlight information in the test booklets? If so, which areas?

You may highlight the scripted text, general prompt, and answer choices on the teacher instruction pages. You may NOT highlight any information on the pages the student uses.

10. When **may** I use manipulatives during the test? When **must** I use manipulatives during the test?

In Math and Science, many students are accustomed to using manipulatives to solve problems. If that is the student's accustomed accommodation, use the accommodation as needed.

ISBE requires that concrete objects be used on certain tasks in Math and Science. These are the only tasks that require manipulatives. A listing of required manipulatives, if any, will appear on the divider page between each subject in the test booklet.

11. I have a student with multiple handicaps that interfere with the student's ability to communicate with others. I have no way to gauge if the student is understanding communication and presently we have yet to determine a way to gauge responses, if any. How do I test that student?

Each teacher knows their students best. Whatever methods you have been accustomed to implementing should be continued. Just as some students taking the ISAT or the PSAE will not always be successful, the same is true of some students taking the IAA.

In spite of the small number of students who are assessed with the IAA, ISBE is aware that each communicates in their own individual fashion. Teachers are complimented on their unceasing efforts to expand their students' interaction with the world.

12. May I change the text of the task to words I believe my student will more readily understand? Can I offer different answer choices than those provided in the test booklet?

No. All scripted text must be repeated as written in the teachers' instructions. Answer choices must be kept the same and in the same order.

Adaptations of the scripted text and answers may include enhancements. A few examples might include text/artwork combinations, color pictures or photographs, use of BoardMaker, PECS, and copying of the student pages for enlargement or separating the choices.

13. Is it OK to point to the task information the student needs to focus on if that is what I usually do?

There is a fine line between cuing and focusing. If the student is accustomed to having information pointed out during questioning, that accommodation should be continued. If this is not customary, the accommodation may actually be a distraction if it is new to the student.

14. Can I write in the student test booklets? **Yes.**
15. Can I highlight my "script" on the teacher instruction pages? **Yes**
16. Can I highlight information on the student pages? **No**
17. I made adaptations to the student pages in the test booklets. Do I send these adaptations to Pearson along with the test books? **No. Only test booklets are returned.**
18. When will score reports be received?

The 2009 IAA reports were sent to the home school districts in late August, 2009. If you have not seen these reports, please contact your district office.

19. In SchoolSuccess, the online scoring system, the person inputting the scores is asked how the student performed on the test. If the teacher enters "much better than average" does that impact the student's overall score outcome? What is this used for?

The comparison to typical performance indicator has no impact on the student's score. This data is analyzed to ensure that tasks are not too easy or too difficult for the students.

20. How do you decide if the student meets, exceeds or is below standards?

The student's raw score is converted to a scale score and categorized, based on the cut-scores set by a panel of Illinois educators during the Standard Setting procedure.

21. Is a student's home school responsible for registering a student for IAA or the school they currently attend? Which entity determines where the test materials will be sent/picked up, scored, and which entity gets the score report? **for Chicago, it is the Home School – for the rest of the state, it is the Home District**

22. If we are testing from multiple districts can we adopt one form for each of the students or do we need to stay consistent with the home school form used?

No. In order to get a reliable sampling of the field test items we ask that you use the form assigned to the testing location. If your coop was assigned as the testing location by the home district, use the form that was delivered directly to you by Pearson. If the home district chose to have materials delivered to them and then disseminated to the coop, use the form that was delivered to the home district.

23. Is there a form sent to IAA coordinators with the student info so that we can verify if it is correct?

ISBE and Pearson expect the coordinator to verify this information within SIS prior to January 8, 2010, in order to ensure accurate distribution of test materials, and population of the online scoring platform. Once you have access to SchoolSuccess, you can log into your district to verify your students' information and make corrections as needed.

24. Last year our test forms were late and had several typos which we had to correct before we could administer the test. Will this year's test be checked for typos?

Materials that are received late are often due to the incorrect coding of testing location with SIS. Please verify that your students are coded with the correct testing location prior to January 8, 2010 extract is sent to Pearson. All print quality issues that occurred in 2009 have been addressed and resolved. 2010 test booklets have already been printed and inspected by multiple parties.

25. Do we need to contact FedEx for pick-up?

No. FedEx will arrive on the preset pick up date (March 24, 2010) at the location of the original delivery. If this date does not work for your district, please contact Pearson to change the pick up date to earlier or later in March.

26. How do you go in and view SIS? Are there directions and specific passwords to access the online read only version of SIS or where can we link to it?

Please call the Help Desk at ISBE at 217/558-3600 and you will be guided through the process.

27. Do private facilities have read only access to SIS?

ISBE is in the process of setting up view-only status for private facilities as well as the cooperatives that already enjoy this ability. Please keep an eye on the ISBE website for news on this topic.