2013 Announcements for Grade 11 Testing

Please share the following information concerning the ACT® National Career Readiness Certificate and the status of Grade 11 Writing with all testing staff and students.

Opportunity to Receive the ACT® National Career Readiness Certificate

WorkKeys® Locating Information completes the battery of three WorkKeys assessments required for students to be eligible to receive a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). Since its first administration in spring 2001, PSAE Day 2 has included the other two WorkKeys assessments required for eligibility – WorkKeys Applied Mathematics and WorkKeys Reading for Information.

The third WorkKeys assessment, Locating Information, will be administered to all eligible grade 11 students immediately after the PSAE Day 2 tests, unless accommodations allow testing on a later day. Data from the WorkKeys Locating Information will be reported separately and will not be part of any PSAE reporting. Grade 11 students for whom the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) is the appropriate state assessment are not required to participate in the administration of WorkKeys Locating Information.

For more information about ACT’s NCRC, please visit www.act.org/certificate/about.html. Staff at established PSAE test sites will receive detailed information about logistics and administration details via the 2013 PSAE Administration Training Webcast and the PSAE Day 2 Supervisor’s Manual of Instruction. The webcast and Day 2 Manual will both be available on the PSAE website www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm.

Please see page 2 for additional information about the addition of Locating Information in spring 2013.

Grade 11 Writing

As announced by State Superintendent Koch in his July 11, 2011, Weekly Message, the grade 11 writing component has been eliminated from state assessment. This remains true for spring 2013 for both PSAE and IAA.

Many districts inquired as to whether the ACT Writing, which had been part of the PSAE, could be optionally self-funded, and ACT indicated that this is not a feasible option.

PSAE Day 1 will consist of the battery of four multiple-choice ACT tests to enable students to receive the bonus of a college-reportable ACT score, as long as PSAE Day 1 is administered under standard-time conditions or with ACT-Approved accommodations.

Students taking the PSAE this year will not receive an ACT Writing score, and, therefore, students who are seeking admission to universities and colleges that require a writing score on a national examination must take either the ACT or SAT on a national test date and independently from the PSAE that is being administered this spring.
**Additional Information: Addition of Locating Information in Spring 2013**

**Why is ISBE providing the Locating Information test?**
The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has adopted an educational agenda that supports college and career readiness for every student. As you are aware, the ACT® is included in the PSAE at grade 11 and provides information to students, parents, and educators relative to college ready indicators. To provide additional information about college and career readiness, ISBE will be providing a no cost opportunity for all students to participate in the 3rd available WorkKeys® assessment, *Locating Information*, and to earn ACT’s National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC™). Although ISBE does not plan to use this third WorkKeys assessment on the School Report Card or the Multiple Measures Index this school year, ISBE will be reviewing the data to determine whether this career readiness information should be used for those purposes in future years.

**Must Schools Administer the Locating Information test?**
ISBE strongly encourages all schools established as a PSAE test site to administer *Locating Information* in Spring 2013. All established schools are scheduled to automatically receive *Locating Information* test materials based on their PSAE Day 2 orders. However, administering *Locating Information* is not a requirement in Spring 2013. Home School Districts may choose not to participate in this opportunity. If this is the decision, these home districts are expected to communicate this to all schools established as a PSAE test site that plan to test their grade 11 students, including serving schools, and also to all stakeholders. Schools must return used and unused *Locating Information* test materials to ACT as directed.

**How long will it take to administer the Locating Information test?**
The standard administration time for the 38-item *Locating Information* test is 45 minutes. Additional time is allowed for accommodations administrations, but the test may not be split over more than one day. Approximately 15 minutes should be allowed for the mechanics of distributing and collecting test materials and for students to complete a small amount of demographic information prior to testing.

**What and How Will Locating Information and NCRC Data be Shared?**
ACT will mail a hard copy³ of the *Locating Information* score data to the high school principal of the school where the student tested. NCRC certificates are scheduled to be available for printing through ISBE’s secure Student Information System. If students would like employers to see their results, then they must register themselves in ACT’s National Registry to activate their information using information provided on the back of the NCRC. There is no registration fee for students to do this.

**Online Resources**
2. Eligible Scores for NCRC: [www.act.org/certificate/about.html](http://www.act.org/certificate/about.html)

**Contacts**
Please direct any questions concerning state assessment to the ISBE Division of Student Assessment at 866/317-6034 and any questions about *Locating Information* or ACT’s NCRC to ACT at 800/967-5539.