Fifteen-Year-Old Students with Disabilities (with an IEP) in Elementary School Districts

The following policy for testing pertains to 105 ILCS 5/14-6.01 of the Illinois School Code. Fifteen-year-old students with disabilities who are enrolled in an elementary school district become accountable to the high school district (according to the Illinois School Code). The high school district becomes financially responsible for the student. The high school district is also responsible for the educational program of the student. The law pertains only to elementary school districts that feed into separate high school districts. It does not pertain to unit districts.

In response to questions from school district staff regarding testing accountability, the following must occur for students, who will be turning 15 years old, attend an elementary district, and have an IEP:

- On the day the student turns age 15 (or sooner, if the high school district agrees), the home school in SIS enrollment must be changed to the high school in the high school district.
- The serving school in SIS enrollment may remain as the school in the elementary school district, if still applicable.
- Upon turning 15 years old, the student must be enrolled in grade 9 in SIS.
- Required assessments for students in grade 8:
  - Grade 8 DLM-AA in ELA, mathematics, and science or
  - Grade 8 Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) in ELA and mathematics and Grade 8 Illinois Science Assessment (ISA).
- Required assessments for students in grade 9:
  - Grade 9 DLM-AA in ELA and mathematics or
  - Grade 9 PSAT 8/9 in ELA and mathematics and possibly the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) only if enrolled in first year biology.

Guidance for Students Scheduled to Participate in DLM-AA

Depending on the student’s grade level in SIS at the time of the test, the student will participate in either the grade 8 DLM-AA in ELA, mathematics, and science or in the grade 9 DLM-AA in ELA and mathematics.

- The DLM-AA test window is March 13 - May 8, 2019.
- If the student begins taking the grade 8 DLM-AA before turning age 15, the student must complete only the grade 8 DLM-AA in ELA, mathematics, and science.
- If the student turns age 15 during the DLM-AA test window and had not yet started taking the DLM-AA, the student must complete the grade 9 DLM-AA in only ELA and mathematics. Staff responsible for testing the student should contact Laura Quinby at lquimby@isbe.net so Laura can update the grade in Educator Portal to grade 9 and remove the student from the grade 8 DLM-AA science roster.

Guidance for Students NOT Scheduled to Participate in DLM-AA

Depending on the student’s grade level in SIS and the local test window for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA), the student will participate in either the grade 8 IAR in ELA and mathematics and also in the ISA for grade 8 or in the grade 9 PSAT 8/9 in ELA and mathematics and possibly the ISA in biology (course dependent).

- The IAR test window is March 11 - April 26, 2019.
- The ISA test window is March 1 - April 30, 2019.
- The initial test date for PSAT 8/9 (for grade 9) is April 9, 2019.
- If the student begins taking the grade 8 IAR before turning age 15, the student must complete the grade 8 IAR in ELA and mathematics.
- If the student begins taking the grade 8 Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) before turning age 15, the student must complete the grade 8 ISA. If the student turns age 15 and had not yet started taking the ISA, the student will participate in ISA only if enrolled in first year biology. Contact Dan Brown (dabrown@isbe.net) for questions pertaining to the ISA.
- If the student will turn age 15 on or before April 9, 2019, and had not yet started taking IAR, the student must participate in the PSAT 8/9* (for grade 9) and contact ilsat@collegeboard.org to ensure appropriate materials will be available for PSAT 8/9 testing. Contact Megan Forness (mfornes@isbe.net) for questions pertaining to the PSAT 8/9.

*Note about PSAT 8/9 testing: The high school district may make arrangements for a student to test at their location if appropriate and feasible. Otherwise, if a student’s serving school is not an established PSAT test center, the high school district may complete an “off-site” testing request that will allow staff to transport secure PSAT 8/9 test materials to the serving school to test the student there instead.