



Illinois State Board of Education

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Spring 2021 Frequently Asked Questions for Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) Updated March 31, 2021

If you have a question not addressed in this FAQ, please write to assessment@isbe.net. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as ISBE works to provide additional answers.

Remote Learners

- Question:** Can we test our remote students remotely?
Answer: No, all testing must be done in person due to security reasons. Therefore, remote learners should be scheduled to come in for testing.
- Question:** What happens if families refuse to send their students to test in person?
Answer: The student should be marked absent from testing. The Testing Coordinator should remove the student from the testing session in PearsonAccess^{next} and then school staff will need to use the RNVTA code 10 in SIS after the testing window has ended.
- Question:** Can my teachers administer the test remotely?
Answer: All testing must be done in person due to security reasons, that includes students AND test administrators.
- Question:** We want to separate the remote learners from our hybrid and make-up test takers to make their parents feel more comfortable about sending them to school. Can we change our testing window?
Answer: Yes, you can make this change in SIS. Districts are encouraged to plan to use the entire testing window to allow this type of scheduling flexibility and additional time for the assessments to be administered.
- Question:** Will ISBE be providing a template or sample letter for districts to use to explain why state testing is moving forward and the requirements for students to test in the building?
Answer: No, however it is acceptable for the districts/schools to draft their own letters to send out to the parents regarding the need for students to come in for testing.

Test Window Extension

- Question:** Will the IAR testing window be extended?
Answer: Yes, the new dates are as follows:
Spring
March 15 – May 14, 2021 (Paper Based Testing)
March 15 – May 28, 2021 (Computer Based Testing)

Fall
August 9 – September 24, 2021 (Paper Based Testing)
August 9 – October 8, 2021 (Computer Based Testing)

7. **Question:** If we decide to take the 2021 assessment next fall, would a 5th grader this year take the 5th grade IAR in the fall of their 6th grade year.
Answer: Yes, students would test for this year's current grade level in the fall of 2021 and then test again in the spring of 2022 for next year's grade level.
8. **Question:** If fall administration is selected as an option, how will high school districts administer the IAR in the fall?
Answer: Elementary districts must coordinate with their high school feeder districts on the best way to administer the test. If an agreement/arrangement is not possible, then spring testing is the best option.
9. **Question:** Can we test our 8th graders in the Spring and the rest of our students in the Fall?
Answer: Yes, you can do this since your 8th grade students will no longer be on your campus in the Fall.

Field Testing

10. **Question:** Is the Field Testing still required for selected schools?
Answer: No, ISBE will no longer be administering the ELA/L field test unit to the selected schools. That test will now be replaced with a shorter 3rd ELA/L unit.
11. **Question:** Is the 3rd ELA/L unit just for the schools who were previously selected for the Field Test?
Answer: No, ALL schools are now required to take the shorter 3rd ELA/L unit.
12. **Question:** How long is the 3rd ELA/L unit?
Answer: It will take students no longer than 10-20 minutes to complete this portion of the test.
13. **Question:** Will this 3rd unit count against the student?
Answer: No, this unit will not be used in the calculation of a student's score.
14. **Question:** Will there be a script provided for test administrators for the 3rd ELA/L unit?
Answer: Test Administrators should use the same test administration scripts they use for other ELA/L sessions, however the adjustment in the amount of time should be less than 20 minutes.

Saturday Testing

15. **Question:** It is very difficult to schedule my remote learners to come in for testing and keeping them separate from my learners. Can we test on the weekends?
Answer: Schools may have the option of testing on Saturdays, if needed.
16. **Question:** Are there specific hours for students to test on Saturdays.
Answer: Yes, testing will be available between the hours of 7am-5pm.