

Subject: IKA Updates for December

To: All Private School Administrators

CC: All Scholarship-Granting Organizations

Dear School Administrator,

It is hard to believe we are in December already! With that said, note the time-sensitive deadlines for high schools and grade schools listed below.

TIME SENSITIVE

HIGH SCHOOLS

SAT with Essay Roster Uploads

SAT with Essay rosters are **due on Friday, Dec. 16**. You should have received an email from rpotempa@isbe.net with a password-encrypted EXCEL spreadsheet; it was sent to all principals and test coordinators we have on file. Please complete this roster spreadsheet. **Only** fill out the highlighted areas. Fill it out for **all** students who will be taking the test. Also, please make sure to indicate which students are Illinois Invest in Kids Act (IKA) scholarship recipients.

List of Established High Schools

Please click [here](#) to see if your high school is set to administer the SAT with Essay, PSAT 8/9, and/or PSAT 10. The list includes all schools that have filled out the two Establishment Surveys distributed earlier in the year. If your school has missing and/or incorrect information, please contact Robert Potempa at rpotempa@isbe.net to correct the situation as soon as possible.

SAT and PSAT Live In-Person Training

The College Board will be conducting two in-person training courses for the SAT with Essay and PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 relating to IKA students. These training courses are scheduled to take place from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 18 at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines and from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on January 19 at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) office in Springfield. There will be light snacks and refreshments. Please click [here](#) for registration information.

Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)

The Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) is a web-based annual summative test given by ISBE to students in grades 5, 8, & 11 across the state of Illinois. Beginning in Spring 2023, the ISA will be given to Illinois Invest in Kids Act scholarship recipients in grades 5, 8 and 11.

The following are key dates for the ISA

- ISA Assessment Information & training webinar: Conducted mid-February 2023. Date TBD
- Test Dates: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – Friday, April 28, 2023

If you are interested in perusing information from prior testing years, that can be found at the following site: <https://www.isbe.net/isa>. This site will be updated with 2023 test information in January. The information below is a high-level check list of the steps required to facilitate the ISA to your students. Detailed information will be provided during the February webinar and on the ISBE.net/isa webpage.

GRADE SCHOOLS

Please Establish Your School

All schools that have IKA scholarship recipients must establish their school as a testing site to administer the Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR) and the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA). Please fill out the Establishment Survey. The Establishment Survey window will close on **Thursday, Dec. 15**. If your school's name is not listed in the survey, please contact rpotempa@isbe.net so we can add your school to the survey. No further action is needed if you have filled out the survey.

Please note ALL Archdiocese of Chicago schools have been established through Clare Sullivan, director of scholarships at the archdiocese, and the Office of Catholic Schools. There is no need for any such schools to fill out the survey. It has been done.

Schools incur all testing costs for all students IKA and otherwise.

List of Established Grade Schools

Please click [here](#) to see if your grade school is set to administer the IAR and the ISA. The list includes all schools that have filled out the Establishment Survey distributed earlier in the year. If your school has missing and/or incorrect information, please contact Robert Potempa at rpotempa@isbe.net to correct the situation as soon as possible.

PearsonAccessNext IAR Training for IKA Schools

Please join Pearson and ISBE for a live IAR online training seminar in January. There will be two opportunities to join this training. There are also training seminars available for your technology coordinators. Please click [here](#) to find the available sessions and to register.

ALL SCHOOLS

Independent Research Firm

ISBE has teamed up with WestEd, an independent research firm, to evaluate students in the IKA program. The IKA states that the act requires that a study must be completed on the academic achievements of students in the IKA program. WestEd may want to contact and visit schools and conduct surveys during its research. We ask for your cooperation with its efforts to conduct the study.

IKA State Assessments

Please note the dates of the important assessments that all IKA scholarship recipients must take for the 2022-23 school year.

[IKA 2022-23 Assessment Dates](#)

***NEW This Year* Illinois Science Assessment for Grades 5, 8, and 11**

All IKA scholarship recipients in Grades 5, 8 and 11 must take the ISA. The testing window for the ISA is March 1 through April 28. More information will be forthcoming regarding this assessment and rostering of students. Please be on the lookout for training seminars in January.

Assessment Security Monitoring Survey for All IKA Schools

Any school with IKA scholarship recipients in Grades 3-11 must complete the Assessment Security Monitoring Survey. Input the name of your school or your RCDTS code in the "District Name" space. Please complete the rest of the form and submit it.


[Take Survey](#)

Updating School Contact Information in the Entity Profile System

If you have not updated your school's information in the Entity Profile System within the past school year, please take a moment to log into your IWAS account to make sure all information is current. It is important for this information to be updated regularly as this is where ISBE gets all the data to send out updates, messages, etc. Please make sure to identify the principal or principals (if you have multiple grade levels). If you have not designated someone on your staff to be the IAR coordinator, the ISA coordinator, or the PSAT/SAT coordinator, please take some time to choose a contact person for each and complete this information. How to select the different coordinators is explained in the links below.

See [information](#) on how to add new coordinators.

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Entity-Profile-System.aspx>

 <p>Illinois State Board of Education</p>		<p>Entity Profile System</p> <p>The Entity Profile System (EPS) serves as the directory for Illinois schools and districts. All other IWAS systems are populated with information entered in EPS.</p> <p>www.isbe.net</p>
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If there are any questions about adding this information or you cannot access EPS, please click on the "Help" link on the IWAS login page.

ASSESSMENT LITERACY

Dec. 15, 2022

Making a Better Match for PreK-2 Students: Lexile Measures and Beginning Readers

Description:

Explore the newest research and enhanced utility of the Lexile Framework for beginning readers! This overview details the work completed by MetaMetrics researchers to extend the Lexile scale into the beginning reader space, offer more precise measures for texts in Grades preK-2, and offer more specific information about the qualities and characteristics that make those individual texts complex.

Target Audience: Administrators, early childhood educators, instructional coaches, library media specialists

To register, click one of the links below and you will be sent an email with the online seminar link:

- [Session 1 \(10-11:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [Session 2 \(4-5:30 p.m.\)](#)

This is an interactive training course so please be prepared to participate.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

The ISBE assessment team wishes you all happy holidays and to enjoy your time with your families!

Please visit the [Illinois Invest in Kids](#) webpage for more information. It is updated regularly.