

ISAT 2011 -- Webinar on Test Administration Procedures and Issues Q & A

Q: CPDU's available?

A: I will contact you directly about this. I will have to find out how this is done.

Q: when can we expect results?

Q: Graduation for 8th grade is early June. Are you saying no results will be available until early June?

A: The reporting schedule we currently have has preliminary results being posted electronically by June 1. Paper copies of reports will be in districts and Chicago schools no later than August 30, 2011.

Q: If a student is enrolled in a private facility that does their own ordering, but is now transitioning back into their home school, will their test materials be sent to the home school from the private facility or does the home school need to order them their special form/regular test form?

A: If the student had the private facility listed as the Testing School as of December 17, 2010, then his/her materials will go to the private facility. In this case, if the private facility can get you the materials without too much trouble or delay, then that would be good. However, there is any doubt, you should use the additional order option and get materials for this student if the overage will not take care of it. Additional orders are done through Pearson's Assessment Network.

Q: May a paraprofessional/aide administer make-up tests to individual or small groups of students?

A: Yes. But if they are not a certificated teacher, administrator, etc. they must be in the direct line-of-sight of a certificated person who is in charge of the administration.

Q: Are there any accommodations that LEP students CAN get if they have been in an ELL program for over 5 years?

A: No. Unless he/she has an IEP or Section 504 Plan, which would allow for accommodations, they have transitioned out of the bilingual program after 5 years and are not eligible.

Q: Can you repeat the two posters that are not allowed?

A: Reading student friendly rubrics and definitions of prefixes, suffixes, affixes, etc. -- Both for reading test.

Q: How do we handle students who have recently moved in?

A: The student would test with ISAT or IAA. However, the enrollment date in SIS would be after May 1 of the previous school year, so he/she would not count for performance AYP calculations in the school and/or school as appropriate.

Q: will the professional testing practices for educators manuals be sent to the schools for each test administrator or should they be printed from the ISBE website?

A: All documents that I listed on the third slide of the presentation will be printed and shipped to districts and schools. You are free to print what you want, but you WILL be getting the usual supply of these documents sent to you, so you do not have to print them for the test.

Q: What if a copy of the classroom poster is already in the alternate test setting?

A: If the poster has not been put up simply for the ISAT testing and is not one of the prohibited posters, then this should be fine.

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Q: I didn't hear who to call for the new race question.

Q: Can you confirm a new Race/Ethnicity designation used to determine subgroups; "multi-racial" or "two or more races"?

A: **Two or more races (includes all who chose more than one race and are not Hispanic/Latino) For example, a student who had White (non-Hispanic) and Asian (non-Hispanic) selected would be considered multi-racial.**

Q: If a spoiled document is not transcribeable what should you do if the same test form is not available at your school?

A: **Use any of the numbered forms and leave the Test Form grid blank on the answer document or grade 3 test booklet. Erase the test form number in the grid if necessary.**

Q: Will there be another webinar covering how to mark students that did not test in SIS?

A: **No. If you have questions about marking students in SIS please call 217/558-3600.**

Q: The State of Illinois Assessment Division is of great help to us new Administrators. Please consider calling them! :-)

A: **Thank you. We especially encourage new Coordinators to call with questions.**

Q: can a certified teacher sub administer the test?

A: **Yes, if by certified substitute you mean one who holds a current teaching certificate.**

Q: s other than those that are online at ISBE?

A: **Please call about this. Not sure i understand that question.**

Q: Are there additional samples of Math/Reading Extended Response Prompt

A: **The only sample we have are available online at the ISAT Web site, which is listed in the Webinar slides.**

Q: While they are not scannable, are they indicated as completed in the ISAT Correction process, or do we just need to make note of this.

A: **?? I assume you are referring to the non-scannable grade 3, large print test forms. These are not indicated as completed in the ISAT correction process. Only regular, scannable answer documents or grade 3 test booklets are indicated (tallied) in the system.**

Q: For make-up tests, do you have to separate the kids by grade level?

A: **Yes, by grade level, by subject, by test session. Otherwise the directions read to the students taking different tests could be confusing, given that they would be directed to different pages in the instructions read to them.**

Q: If there is a 15 year old student in grade 7 or 8 that DOES NOT have an IEP, does that student take the ISAT and do the student's scores count in the District's data?

A: **Yes on both counts. The status as a student with an IEP is necessary.**

Q: did you say NO student friendly rubrics?

A: **Correct. Reading Student Friendly Rubrics are one of the two specifically listed as prohibited posters.**

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Q: We have created an ISAT schedule that allows students to test in the classroom where they have that subject (i.e.. math test administered by their math teacher in their math classroom). In order to make this possible, all students at the same grade level will not be able to complete the same subject test by the end of the same day. Is that o.k.?

A: **No. All students who are in sessions must complete the same scheduled test sessions by the end of the day (except for some students who have IEPs and some who are LEP). Otherwise, you risk students sharing test content and when this has happened it has created large test irregularities where many student scores were suppressed.**

Q: sorry about that, wasn't finished, special ed.coop, confused, do I order the extra materials, or do I rely on the home districts for the materials?

A: **If your facility (special ed. coop or other facility) is listed as the Testing School in SIS for a student, you will receive materials directly from Pearson AND you are responsible for ordering any special format tests needed for your students.**

Q: We joined late and you may have answered this. If IEP states extra time allowed, is that allowed for ISAT

A: **Extra time is acceptable, alone or in combination with other accommodations, such as reader scripts.**

Q: If a student is sick during the math sessions but there for the reading and science, do they make up the math sessions?

A: **A student cannot come back to a test session started on a previous day. So if they started math session 1, got sick and went home, they would not go back to math session 1 when they returned on a following day. They would test with their classmates on the regular school schedule. The student would make up the missed test sessions as soon as is feasible. The answer document would be returned to Pearson with whatever the student had completed.**

Q: Are there sample test items on ISBE's website?

Q: Where can a teacher obtain sample test items?

A: http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/sample_books.htm

Q: If a student is out sick, are they able to make up the section that they missed?

A: **Yes. Any test sessions they did not get to at all, they can complete in a make-up session. However, see the Q and A above.**

Q: Please clarify how students are being assessed in writing this year. Thank you.

A: **There is no separate ISAT writing assessment in grades 3, 5, 6, and 8 this year. However, there will still be a written component on the mathematics test (ER and SR items) and on the reading test (ER items). Nevertheless, the written components of reading and mathematics will not be used to fashion a "writing" score, per se.**

Q: Please clarify...If a scribe is used, they must post a statement at the top...transcribed by (scribe's name)

A: **At the top of each page of the answer document/grade 3 test booklet that has transcribed student responses, write directly on the top of the page (no Post-It notes) "Transcribed by (insert name of transcriber)" do this for all transcribed pages, not just the first page.**

Q: what if a scribe takes over half way through a student starting their extended response?

A: **No problem. But you still need to indicate that there was a transcriber involved with a note at the top of each page.**

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Q: can a teachers aide be a prompter?

A: I am not sure what a prompter is. If this is someone who helps keeps a student with an IEP on track (working in the correct section of the test, encouraging them to make progress through the test session, etc.) then the answer is "yes." Obviously the teacher's aide, in this role, needs to be under the direct supervision of a certificated school person on the list of those who can administer the ISAT.

Q: Can LEP students with LM forms be tested in the room with other students if no extra time is needed as an accommodation?

A: You can mix the testing of students (in the same grade) using Form LM with other test forms ONLY for the reading test, since reading is not linguistically modified. This would not work for math and science.

Q: As a Cubs fan, I often look at worst case scenarios. What should we do if a student vomits on their test? What if they begin blurting out answers to the test in class? I've heard of both of these things happening

A: For the getting sick part, see the Webinar Script I have posted. For the blurting out answers (new one to me), if you know in advance the student may do this (e.g., he/she tends to talk to themselves during testing) then you may test this student individually. If this behavior catches everyone completely by surprise, then stop the student ASAP, move them to another room to complete testing. Call me if this becomes a problem that could not be nipped in the bud.

Q: Our teachers use their walls effectively for instructional support all year. Are there any posters they can not have up during reading or math testing?

A: Reading Student Friendly Rubric and definitions of prefixes, suffixes, affixes. These are the only two that are specifically prohibited.

Q: I have a student from Africa that speaks very little English. She is taking the WIDA Access test. Will she also have to take the ISAT?

A: Yes. But if the student is new to the US, she would not take the reading test.

Q: Our 6th-8th graders change class for Reading, Math & Science....can they take there test in the class they go to for that subject?

A: Yes. They simply have to follow the school's test schedule so that by the end of the day all students in attendance have completed the same scheduled test sessions (except for some students who have IEPs and some who are LEP).

Q: There are math sample books posted on ISBE. I can't seem to find science and reading sample books. Why are they not there?

A: http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/sample_books.htm The reading and science sample test booklets are posted on this Web site.

Q: Are the online sample tests/guides the exact same materials as last year, or have they been updated?

A: They have been updated from last year. However, the samples from previous years are posted at the Web site above.

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Q: Can extended response prompt be read for the Reading test?

A: **No part of the reading test may be read to students. This includes the passages, multiple-choice questions or their alternatives, or the extended-response questions.**

Q: Are there any restrictions for math and science posters besides the student friendly rubrics

A: **Math and science do not have any posters that are listed as being specifically prohibited. See page 10 of the District and School Coordination Manual or page 10 of either of the test administration manuals for general restrictions pertaining to posters.**

Q: What if a student begins a test session and gets sick in the middle of the test and returns the next day?

A: **They cannot return to a test session begun on a previous day. When they return they test with their classmates on the regular test schedule and make up any sessions that were not begun on the day they got sick.**

Q: Teachers do not read the reading part, but every year my teachers ask if they can either read the questions and/or the extended response prompt. Is this allowable?

A: **No. See the question and answer above.**

Q: If there is a student who is new to the country and does not speak English or Spanish, is it known through SIS as to why the student would not be completing one or more portions of the test?

A: **Yes. As long as the student is marked in SIS as first Year in US, there will be no problem with the student not taking the reading test.**

Q: You didn't talk about make ups.

A: **See page 9 of either of the two test administration manuals for information about make-up testing.**

Q: Who generally is responsible for make up tests?

A: **The same requirements apply for administering make-up tests to students as apply for the regular administration. See pages 8 and 9 in either of the two test administration manuals for Who Can Administer ISAT and Makeup Testing.**

Q: Can you administer two different sections to different kids during make ups?

A: **No. All students in a make-up session must be taking the same session of the same subject in the same grade. Trying to keep all the oral directions to students straight, especially the references to page numbers could be confusing to students, and they could be sent to the wrong page if they were not paying attention. This could easily lead to a test irregularity, which jeopardizes the student's scores/results.**

Q: Is there a maximum number of tests a student can do in one day (asked in reference to scheduling make ups)?

A: **For the regular test schedule, no more than two test sessions in a given day. For make-up testing we allow more than two sessions to be administered in a given day, but no more than two test sessions in any one morning or afternoon. It depends on the student, but my guess is that you are running a risk if you tried to administer more than three sessions in one day. Time permitting, it would be easier on the student to do no more than two make-up sessions in one day. Use your best judgment for what is optimal testing for the student, within the limitations in the manuals.**

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Q: Are there rulers available for download?

A: No. Downloaded and printed rulers do not scale well and the actual measure of the downloaded ruler can be off, potentially confusing students. Teachers are allowed to keep the paper rulers at the end of testing for use in future years.

Q: Is there a handout to download?

A: The PowerPoint for this presentation can be downloaded at: <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/isat.htm>

Q: How do you mark student that did not take any tests in SIS?

A: There is a field in SIS for Reason Not Tested. The reason can be marked in SIS.

Q: If a special ed teacher has to test in a separate location from her classroom, are they allowed to move their posters to the new location?

A: If these posters are in the student's IEP as an accommodation, then the posters can be moved for these students. If they are not part of accommodations in the IEP, then the posters cannot be moved. To move them to a new location draws attention to the poster as something that might be important for taking the ISAT tests.

Q: Is there an easy to read handout just for teacher?

A: All materials that have been produced for this Webinar have been posted online at the address listed in the slides. I have not made a specific handout for teachers.

Q: Is there guidance/restrictions on how to create a school testing schedule?

A: See pages 14 and 15 of the District and School Coordination Manual for information about test scheduling and limitations on test scheduling. If you have questions after looking at this information, please call me.

Q: Are there any accommodations that LEP students CAN get if they have been in an ELL program for over 5 years?

A: No. They have transitioned out of the bilingual program after 5 years, unless he/she has an IEP or Section 504 Plan.