

ILLINOIS SCIENCE ASSESSMENT (ISA) ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS GUIDANCE

The Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) accessibility and accommodations guidance document is provided to assist districts to determine the most appropriate accessibility features and accommodations for students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a 504 plan.

In compliance with federal testing requirements, Illinois will administer a science assessment to students enrolled in a public school district in grades 5, 8, and once at the high school level. The high school assessment utilizes a course-based model with content aligned to Biology I. The assessment will be administered in an online format and is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards for Science incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which were adopted in 2014.

The ISBE-Learn platform includes Text-to-Speech and Line Reader as accessibility features and are thus available, and allowable, for all students regardless of IEP, 504, or EL status. Additional accessibility features and accommodations are applied at the school level following the student's individual plan (IEP or 504). Note, if paper tests are administered, the answers must be transcribed into ISBE-Learn for scoring. Failure to do so will result in no results for the student, and they will count as not tested for participation, as no scale score will be generated. Paper copies and read aloud scripts are posted in the help menu under **secure** documents in ISBE-Teach. Test Coordinators must ensure collection and destruction of all paper materials used during the IEP/504 process.

Students with EL plans may have the test read aloud or translated into their native language. However, all answers must be in English and transcribed into ISBE-Learn for scoring. Again, failure to do so will result in no results for the student, and they will count as not tested for participation, as no scale score will be generated.

Illinois Science Assessment Accessibility Features and Accommodations

Administrative Considerations	
Feature	Description
Specialized Equipment or Furniture	Student is provided specialized equipment or furniture needed for a successful testing environment (e.g., low lighting, adaptive seat).
Specified Area or Seating	Student is tested in a specialized area or setting (e.g., front of the classroom, seat near the door, library, etc.).
Separate/Alternate Location	Student is tested in a specifically assigned location.
Small Group Testing	Student is tested in a separate location with a small group of students with matching accessibility features, accommodations, or testing needs as appropriate.
Time of Day	Student is tested during a specific time of day based on their individual needs.
Frequent Breaks	Student can take frequent breaks.
Accessibility Features within the System	
Feature	Description
Line Reader Tool	The student selects line-reader and uses an on-screen tool to assist in reading.
Text-to-Speech	The student will be able to have the text read using a synthetic voice. Eva and Tom are the voice selections available. Eva is the ISBE preferred voice.
Calculator / 4-Funtion	The student uses a calculating device
Highlighter	The student selects words to highlight. Four colors can be selected
Answer Eliminator	The student selects answer choices to eliminate from being the possible correct answer
Jump Text	The student selects a location in the text from which to start the reader. Does NOT require rereading the entire page each time.
Magnifier	The student scrolls over any location on the page to magnify the screen 2x
Accessibility Features outside of the System	
Feature	Description
Headphones/Noise Buffer	The student uses headphones or noise buffers to minimize distraction, access embedded text-to-speech, or filter external noise during testing. If headphones are used as only noise buffers, do not plug them into the testing device.
Human Signer for Test Directions	The student has the test directions signed to them.
Human Reader/Signer for Test	The student will be allowed to have the science test (including questions and answer options) read to them or signed to them by a person. This must be done in small groups or one-to-one.
Human Scribe	The student can use a human scribe if unable to access the computer.
Redirect Student to Test	The test administrator redirects the student's attention to the test without coaching or assisting the student in any way.
Directions Clarified by Test Administrator	The test administrator clarifies general administration directions only.
Directions Read Aloud/Repeated as Needed by Test Administrator	The test administrator reads aloud the general administration directions only. A student may raise his/her hand and request the directions be repeated.

Student Reads Aloud to Themselves	The student reads the test aloud to him/herself. Students may use an external device such as a whisper phone, read to themselves in a normal voice, or use other strategies from classroom instruction. The student must be tested in a separate setting.
Extended Time	Students have until the end of the scheduled school day to finish testing.