



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

Darren Reisberg
Chair of the Board

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education

Frequently Asked Questions for the Learning Renewal Interim Assessment Updated August 27, 2021

QUESTION: How much does the Learning Renewal Interim Assessment (LRIA) cost?

ANSWER: The LRIA costs \$8 per student, per year. This cost covers the three administrations for both English language arts (ELA) and math.

QUESTION: What districts are eligible to participate in the Learning Renewal Interim Assessment?

ANSWER: These interim assessments are intended for districts that do not currently have an interim assessment and are in need of assessing “unfinished learning” for their students as a result of the pandemic. The assessment is free to participating school districts. This increases equity and access for districts that cannot afford interim assessments locally.

QUESTION: What are some benefits to using the Learning Renewal Interim Assessment?

ANSWER: This interim assessment will provide immediate individualized diagnostic information to the teacher so they can adjust their instruction and allow for more individualized support. It uses a computer-adaptive model to allow for student mastery and it gives teachers the ability to see student growth as the year progresses. The assessment can also be customized to match the scope and sequence of the district's curriculum.

QUESTION: For which grade levels are the interim assessments available?

ANSWER: The Learning Renewal Interim Assessment is provided is for Grades 3-8.

QUESTION: How many districts are participating?

ANSWER: There are 20 districts, which serve more than 14,000 students, that are participating as we start the 2021-22 school year. We expect more participation as we continue this process.

QUESTION: In what regions are these districts located?

ANSWER:

- Central Illinois -- 11
- Southern Illinois — 2
- Northern Illinois — 5
- Western Illinois -- 2

QUESTION: How much Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSR) funding has been allocated annually to administer the LRIA?

ANSWER: Slightly over \$3 million per year for three years or a total of about \$9 million has been allocated. So approximately \$8 per student will be allowable.

QUESTION: When will the interim assessment be administered?

ANSWER: The interim assessment test windows for the 2021-22 school year are:

Interim 1: Oct. 4 – Oct. 29, 2021

Interim 2: Jan. 24 – Feb. 18, 2022

Interim 3: May 2 – May 27, 2022

QUESTION: How long will it take for students to take each interim assessment?

ANSWER: Interim assessments are designed to be completed in a single class period. Each test will take students approximately 45 minutes to complete for each content area -- Reading, Math, and Writing (only given during the third interim assessment).

QUESTION: What are the technology requirements or specifications for the assessments?

ANSWER: Learning Renewal Interim Assessments are delivered with the same testing engine as the summative assessments. The same vendor is being used.

QUESTION: What are the procedures for rostering students into the assessment platform? How do teachers have access to the platform?

ANSWER: Pearson will load students into the testing platform. Consistent tools, manipulatives, and accommodations will provide a consistent testing experience for Illinois students. Students and teachers already will be familiar with the accommodations and tools in the interim assessments.

QUESTION: Are there sample interim assessments available?

ANSWER: Yes, a practice test for each grade is available on the Pearson Learning Renewal Interim Assessment website for you familiarize yourself with the kinds of items and format used for the tests. [View practice tests.](#)

QUESTION: Do the interim assessments align to the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR)?

ANSWER: Yes. The Learning Renewal Interim Assessments are built from an item bank aligned to Illinois State Standards to ensure that the assessment is in lockstep with student instruction.

QUESTION: What data supports the interim assessments' alignment to IAR?

ANSWER: Grade-specific ELA and mathematics items have been developed by content specialists with decades of item-writing experience using Pearson's comprehensive item development procedures that stress alignment, interest, and cognitive complexity. Items have also been reviewed for bias and cultural sensitivity. Each item is reviewed by content specialists, editors, and external key reviewers and tagged with both a content label based on each state's unique classification system and a cognitive complexity designation. [View supporting documents.](#)

QUESTION: Are interim assessment scores correlated to performance on IAR? If so, what is the regression equation?

ANSWER: Not necessarily. The purpose of the interim assessment is to provide districts an opportunity for progress monitoring, instructional feedback, and mid-course recalibration, not to predict future results.

QUESTION: How are the interim assessments scored?

ANSWER: All items are machine scored, which allows for a quick turnaround of assessment results to educators. LRIA reports are available in real time after the assessment is administered. They are highly interactive and provide content- and domain-level scale scores, growth measures, and proficiency determinations.

QUESTION: How have the questions been developed for the interim assessments?

ANSWER: Districts use a simple tool in the user interface to indicate which domains and standards will be covered in instruction prior to the administration of each interim assessment. Students then receive an interim assessment that aligns to what they have been taught and is adaptive based on their individual performance. Previously taught standards are continually integrated into each assessment to make sure that students really understand the concepts. This approach ensures each interim assessment aligns with changes to instruction and aligns truly to what students have been taught at the time each interim assessment is delivered.

QUESTION: What are the question formats for the interim assessments?

ANSWER: There are a dynamic range of item types in the Learning Renewal Interim Assessments:

- Mathematics items include hot spots, drag-and-drop, point graph, fill in the blank, multiple-choice, multiple-select, and equation editor formats.
- Reading items include gap match, hot text, inline choice, match, match-table grid, order, text extractor, multiple-choice, and multiple-select and items with audio and video formats.

QUESTION: Will training be provided?

ANSWER: Yes. Professional development for the interim assessments will start in September of 2021. Registration information will be posted at <https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/learningRenewalInterimResources/>.

*Special Note: District superintendents must notify ISBE of interest to participate.

QUESTION: When is the last day to sign up for the Learning Renewal Interim Assessment?

ANSWER: The cutoff date for districts to sign up to participate in the Learning Renewal Interim Assessment program is August 31.

QUESTION: How do districts sign up to participate?

ANSWER: The district superintendent can express interest in participating by sending an email to LRIAssessment@isbe.net. You will be given information on next steps at that time.