

2025-26 Illinois State Assessment Dates

Spring Holidays and Time Change

Please consider the impact of spring religious holidays and the time change when creating a local schedule that will best support all students in having a successful testing experience.

Religious Holidays

Ramadan	February 17–March 18, 2026
Eid al-Fitr	March 19–20, 2026
Rama Navami	March 26, 2026
Passover	April 1–9, 2026
Good Friday	April 3, 2026
Vaisakhi	April 14, 2026

Time Change

The time change (Daylight Saving Time) will occur on March 8, 2026.

DLM-AA for Grades 3-11*

(Dynamic Learning Maps-Alternate Assessment)

Content Area	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
ELA/Literacy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Science			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Testing Window:

March 11, 2026 (earliest) – May 6, 2026 (latest)

**Current grade 12 students without a valid grade 11 or 12 score or qualifying exemption from any previous grade 11 or 12 DLM-AA administration will be rostered to take DLM-AA in Spring 2026.*

ACCESS for ELLs™ for Grades K-12

(ACCESS for English Language Learners)

Content Areas: Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Testing Window:

January 14 (earliest) – March 3, 2026 (latest)

ISA for Grades 5 and 8

(Illinois Science Assessment)

Content Area	Grade 5	Grade 8
Science	✓	✓
Testing Window:	March 2–April 30, 2026	

IAR for Grades 3-8

(Illinois Assessment of Readiness)

Content Area	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
ELA/Literacy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Testing Window:	Online: March 2, 2026 (earliest) – April 17, 2026 (latest) Paper: March 2, 2026 (earliest) – April 3, 2026 (latest)				

ACT with Writing for Grade 11*

Content Areas: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science and Writing	<p>Digital Test Event Options:</p> <p>Test Event 1: March 24 – 27 and March 30 – April 3, 2026 Test Event 2: April 7 – 10 and April 13 – 17, 2026 Test Event 3: April 21 – 24 and April 27 – May 1, 2026</p> <p>Please note that each two-week Test Event begins on a Tuesday. Monday testing is available during the second week of each two-week option.</p> <p>Prior to testing, schools will be asked to identify one Test Event for initial testing in ACT Now to support the timely receipt of any paper accommodated materials.</p> <p>If necessary for any reason (e.g., change in testing date, makeup testing, testing transfer students who haven't tested), students may test during any Test Event. A student must start and complete testing in the same Test Event, so schedule students with multi-day testing early in the window.</p> <p><i>*Current grade 12 students without a valid grade 11 or 12 score or qualifying exemption from any previous ISBE-provided administration will be <u>rostered automatically</u> to take ACT with Writing in Spring 2026.</i></p>
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PreACT Secure for Grade 10 and PreACT 9 Secure for Grade 9

Content Areas: English, Mathematics, Reading and Science	<p>Digital Test Event Options:</p> <p>Test Event 1: March 16 – 27, 2026 Test Event 2: March 30 – April 10, 2026 Test Event 3: April 13 – 24, 2026</p> <p>Testing should not be administered on weekends.</p> <p>Prior to testing, schools will be asked to identify one Test Event for initial testing in ACT Now to support the timely receipt of any paper accommodated materials. Testing may be scheduled on any day(s) within the selected Test Event.</p> <p>If necessary for any reason (e.g., change in testing date, makeup testing, testing transfer students who haven't tested), students may test during any Test Event. A student must start and complete testing in the same Test Event, so schedule students with multi-day testing early in the window.</p>
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KIDS

(Kindergarten Individual Development Survey)

**Content Areas:
Kindergarten
Readiness
(Social Emotional
Development,
Language &
Literacy, &
Cognition – Math)**

Fall Observation and Evidence Collection: First 40 Days of Student Attendance*

Data Entry Windows: The data entry window for districts opens one week before the 40th day of attendance and will remain open until one week after the 40th day of attendance.

**Data entry windows are specific to each district's attendance calendar*

Contact the Department of Assessment at assessment@isbe.net or 866-317-6034 if your district or school has scheduling conflicts.