# ISBE Student Assessment Update

Illinois State Board of Education

January 30, 2026

# Agenda

- General Updates
- ACCESS/ALT ACCESS
- Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)
- Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR)
- Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA)
- ACT with Writing, PreACT Secure, PreACT 9 Secure
- Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS)
- Upcoming Webinars
- Contact Information

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# General Updates

- To register for upcoming Assessment Update Webinars, open the blue "Presentations and Webinars" accordion on the Communications webpage, and click on the "Registration" link.

- All Assessment Update Webinars are recorded and posted, along with the presentation slide deck, on the "Presentations and Webinars Archive" page.

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# ISBE's Entity Profile System (EPS)

- ISBE's Entity Profile System (EPS) serves as the directory for Illinois schools and districts.
- Most IWAS systems are populated with information from EPS and used for important notifications, updates, due dates, etc. Therefore, it is essential that your district/school information stay updated for key personnel like superintendents, principals, assessment coordinators, addresses, phone numbers, etc.

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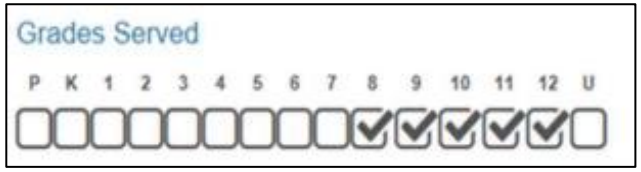
# ISBE's Entity Profile System (EPS)

- As the 2025-26 school year begins, please make sure all data stored in ISBE's EPS are accurate and up to date. This includes grade levels served and testing coordinators.

- May 1, 2025: 2026 Entity Profile System Webinar
  - Webinar
  - Presentation
  - Q&A




- **Superintendent**
- **Principal**
- Assessing Comprehension and Communications in English State-to-State (ACCESS) Coordinator
- Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) Coordinator
- High School Test Coordinator
- Illinois Assessments of Readiness (IAR) Coordinator
- Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) Coordinator
- Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) Coordinator
- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Coordinator

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# SIS Webinar Fall Update

## December 3, 2025: SY2025-26 Fall Update

Presentation
Webinar

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# WIDA™/ACCESS

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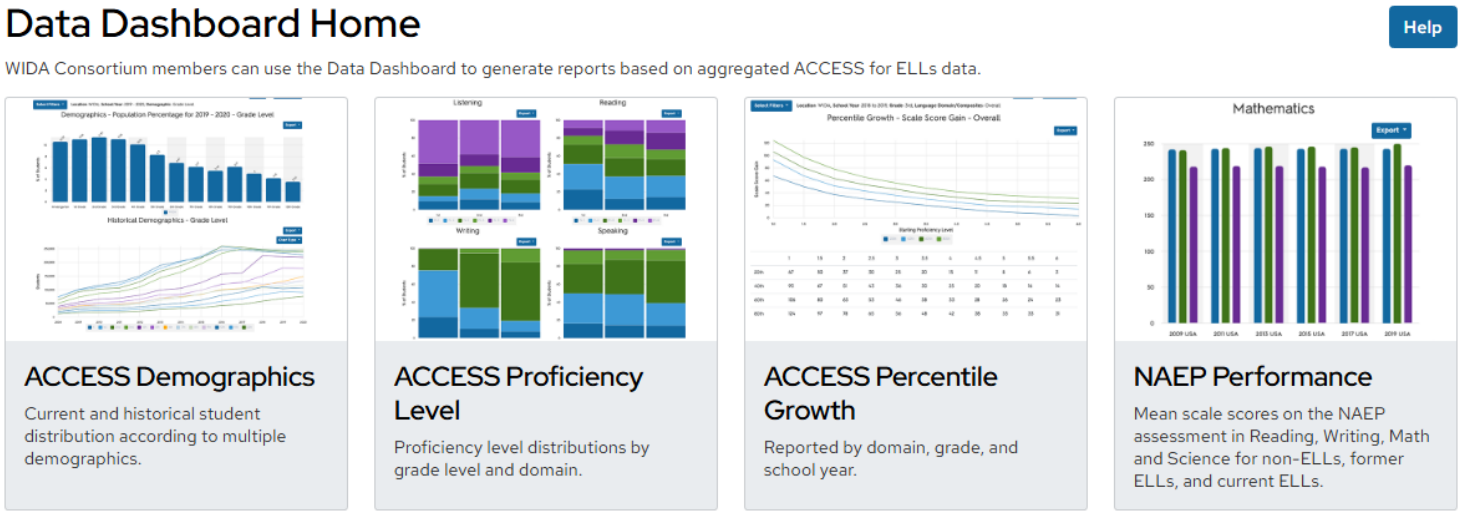
# WIDA Data Dashboard




The [WIDA Data Dashboard] now includes ACCESS for ELLs testing data from the 2024-2025 school year. The data in the dashboard is taken from the WIDA Data Warehouse, which serves as the primary data source for all research and technical assistance projects at WIDA. If you need assistance using the Data Dashboard, use the **Report Help** button on the report page.

# Supporting MLs with Disabilities

**WIDA Resources Supporting Multilinguals with Disabilities**

- Webpage

- Webinar

- Focus Bulletin

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# Return Grades 1-3 Writing Materials

WIDA asks that you return your ACCESS Online grades 1-3 Writing test booklets **as early as possible**. Do not hold them until the end of the testing window.

Returning Writing Test booklets to DRC earlier helps support the quality of WIDA ACCESS scoring and ensures that score reports are not delayed.

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# WIDA Webinar Recordings SY2026

- WIDA Screener Online and Paper
- Welcome Back: What's New in 2025-2026?
- WIDA ACCESS for New Test Administrators
- WIDA ACCESS for New District Test Coordinators
- WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten for New Test Administrators
- WIDA Alternate ACCESS for New Test Administrators
- Monitoring WIDA ACCESS Test Completion for Test Coordinators – on 1/22/26
- WIDA ACCESS Technology Troubleshooting
- Returning WIDA ACCESS Test Materials
- WIDA ACCESS Software Updates and Tech Readiness Checklist
- WIDA ACCESS Technology Installations: Pt. 1
- WIDA ACCESS Technology Installations: Pt. 2
- WIDA ACCESS Technology Support and Online Preparedness
- Managing Student Information for WIDA ACCESS Testing
- WIDA ACCESS Technology Troubleshooting
- Managing WIDA ACCESS Registrations in WIDA AMS
- Managing WIDA ACCESS Test Materials in WIDA AMS

Recordings of past webinars are available on the Webinars Page

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## Contact Information

ISBE Website ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS
WIDA AMS Illinois WIDA AMS
WIDA Public Website Illinois WIDA Public Site
WIDA Secure Portal Illinois WIDA Secure Portal

Barry Pedersen: WIDA ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS-Assessment Coordinator

Lauren Ligammari: ACCESS/Alternate Access-Multilingual

Email assessment@isbe.net
WIDA Support: help@wida.wisc.edu
DRC Support: wida@datarecognitioncorp.com

ISBE Support Phone: 1-866-317-6034
WIDA Secure Portal/Public Site Phone: 1-866-276-7735
WIDA AMS (DRC) Phone: 1-855-787-9615

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# (ISA)

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# ISA Key Dates

| Description | Dates |
|---|---|
| 2026 Spring Testing Window | **3/2/2026 - 4/30/2026** |
| Create Proctor Groups | **2/9/2026 - 4/30/2026** |
| Material Ordering | **2/16/2026 - 4/24/2026** |
| Return Materials | **2/16/2026 - 5/7/2026** |
| Deadline to Transcribe Science Paper Tests | **4/30/2026** |

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# 2026 ISA General Information

- You do not need to set up a testing window in ADAM for the ISA. You can administer the 3 sections of the exam any time during the testing window on consecutive class days or in a single school day.
- **There will be a 90-minute time-limit for each section of the exam.**

(This 90-minute time-limit is controlled by the test proctor and is per section not for the entire exam)

- Please update any needed administration or test coordinator information in EPS as soon as possible.
- Guide for Updating EPS Information

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# 2026 ISA General Information

- **Google is discontinuing support for native, legacy Chrome Apps. In response to this change, TestNav will retire the legacy TestNav Chrome App.**
- Schools will be required to use the new TestNav Web App for ChromeOS. The old TestNav app must be **uninstalled** and the new app installed prior to Spring 2026 testing.
- UPDATED: TestNav - Review and Prepare for 2025-26 School Year
- TestNav - NEW Chromebook Support for SY 2025-26

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# 2026 ISA Practice Items

- Test-Nav practice items and The Student Readiness Tool are now available on the Pearson support page.

Test-Nav interaction practice items help students become familiar with the several types of question interactions used on the Test Nav 8 platform.

The Student Readiness Tool allows students to practice interacting with the Test-Nav platform including moving from question to question, reviewing and bookmarking questions, and submitting test answers.

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# QuISBE ISA Practice Exams

- QuISBE is a new practice exam platform for the ISA. It provides 5th and 8th grade students with practice-exams similar to the ISA summative assessment.
- The 30-item practice exams are approximately the same length as a single section of the ISA, so they are a good measure for how long your students may take to complete a single section of the exam.
- When using **TTS**, we suggest using the fast setting for grade 8 and the normal or fast setting for grade 5

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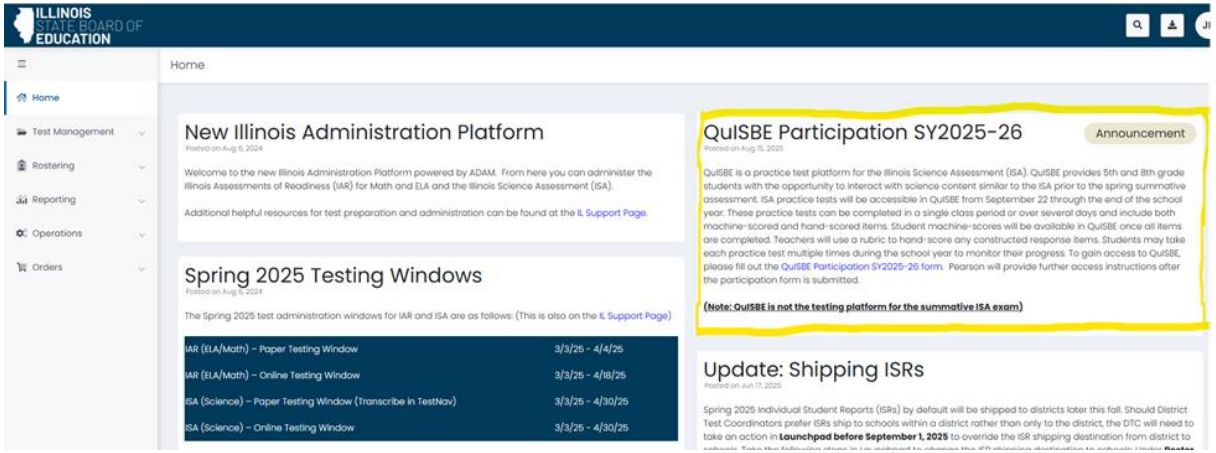
# QuISBE - Practice Exam Platform

- To gain access to the QuISBE platform, you must first fill out the QuISBE Participation SY2025-26 form to register.
- Pearson will provide further access instructions after the participation form is submitted. This normally takes 24 hours.

Note: QuISBE is not the testing platform for the summative ISA exam

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## Contact Information
## ISBE Website Illinois Science Assessment

John Hicks: ISA Coordinator

Email: assessment@isbe.net

Phone: 866-317-6034

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**(IAR)**

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# Illinois Assessment of Readiness

## 2026 IAR KEY DATES

| Events | Date(s) |
|---|---|
| IAR Spring 2026 Testing Window - Paper Testing<br>IAR Spring 2026 Testing Window – Online Testing | 3/2/26 - 4/3/26<br>3/2/26 - 4/17/26 |
| Create Proctor Groups within the Platform | 2/9/26 – 4/17/26 |
| Materials Ordering window for districts/schools<br>(all paper tests, paper kits, paper-based test proctor scripts, additional manuals, return labels) | 2/16/26 – 3/30/26 |

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# Illinois Assessment of Readiness

## FIELD TEST PARTICIPATION

Each year, a statewide sample of schools is identified to field test newly developed English Language Arts (ELA) passages and items for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). This process helps replenish and expand the item pool for future operational assessments and ensures that new development is representative of students from across the state.

Please refer to the list of participating schools to view the school(s) and grade levels that have been selected for the 2026 administration. Students participating in the field test will take an additional section (for ELA), which will make a total of three sections. The instructions and timing for the third section will be the same as Sections 1 and 2. All sections should be administered in numerical order, except in cases of makeups for students.

- 2026 Field Test Participation – Sorted by School Name
- 2026 Field Test Participation – Sorted by School Code

**The field test is not optional.**

**Thank you in advance for your cooperation.**

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# Illinois Assessment of Readiness

## 2026 IAR TRAININGS & RESOURCES

IAR trainings and resources are being updated and posted on the Pearson Training Site in preparation for the 2026 testing administration. Please be sure to check the site regularly to be aware of all the new and updated resources.

All IAR/ISA training videos will now require you to sign in or create an account with Pearson's Learning Management System (LMS). This will allow you the opportunity to earn professional development credit as you prepare for the upcoming testing administration.

To access the IAR/ISA training videos, sign in or create an account with your work email and password. Enter your state IEIN number, confirm your profile, then proceed to watch the video and earn PD credit.

If you don't have an LMS account you can create one here.

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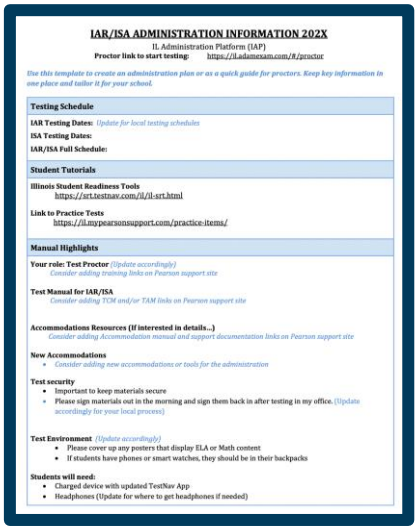
**For any questions, please call Pearson customer support at 833-213-3879.**

# Illinois Assessment of Readiness

## TRAIN YOUR STAFF TOOLKIT

ISBE now offers a training toolkit to assist test coordinators with managing and training their staff for the IAR & ISA. It features a plan of action and offers tips on what topics to include in your training agenda.

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR STAFF TOOLKIT



**IAR/ISA ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION 202X**

IL Administration Platform (IAP)

**Proctor link to start testing:** https://il.adamsexam.com/#/proctor

*Use this template to create an administration plan or as a quick guide for proctors. Keep key information in one place and tailor it for your school.*

**Testing Schedule**

**IAR Testing Dates:** *Update for local testing schedules*

**ISA Testing Dates:**

**IAR/ISA Full Schedule:**

**Student Tutorials**

**Illinois Student Readiness Tools**
https://srt.testnav.com/il/il-srt.html

**Link to Practice Tests**
https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-items/

**Manual Highlights**

**Your role: Test Proctor** *(Update accordingly)*
*Consider adding training links on Pearson support site*

**Test Manual for IAR/ISA**
*Consider adding TCM and/or TAM links on Pearson support site*

**Accommodations Resources (If interested in details...)**
- *Consider adding Accommodation manual and support documentation links on Pearson support site*

**New Accommodations**
- *Consider adding new accommodations or tools for the administration*

**Test security**
- Important to keep materials secure
- Please sign materials out in the morning and sign them back in after testing in my office. *(Update accordingly for your local process)*

**Test Environment** *(Update accordingly)*
- Please cover up any posters that display ELA or Math content
- If students have phones or smart watches, they should be in their backpacks

**Students will need:**
- Charged device with updated TestNav App
- Headphones (Update for where to get headphones if needed)

Look for training videos on the Pearson Training site AFTER you have created an Adobe account.

### Additional Resources for Training Staff

- IAR/ISA Administration Planning Template - PDF
- IAR/ISA Administration Planning Template - Editable Version
- Intro to Test Management for Proctors and Support Staff – Video
- Seal Code Management Training – Video
- IAR and ISA Security Agreement - PDF
- Test Proctor Scripts & Resources

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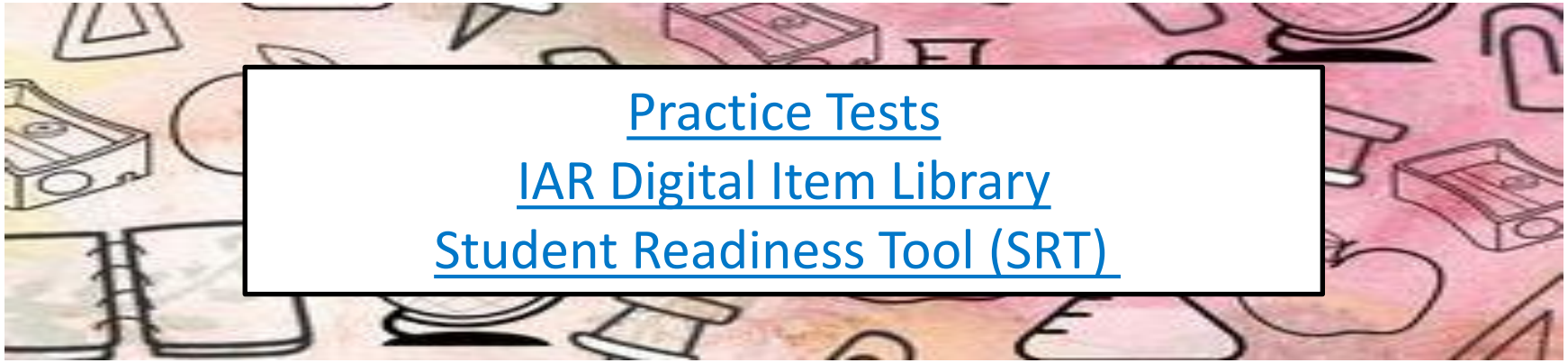
# Illinois Assessment of Readiness

## TEST PRACTICE



Practice Tests
IAR Digital Item Library
Student Readiness Tool (SRT)

- Prose Constructed Response (PCR) Writing Guide
- Test Blueprint - ELA
- Test Writing Rubric - ELA
- New Meridian Test Design-ELA
- IAR Math Test Scoring Expectations
- Test Blueprint - Mathematics
- Test Structure - Mathematics
- New Meridian Test Design-Math
- Mathematics Calculator Policy

**These resources and more can be found in their entirety on the IAR website under the Test Design accordion:**

**ISBE IAR Website**

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# Illinois Assessment of Readiness

## IAR TRAININGS AND RESOURCES FOR 2026

**NOTEWORTHY**

Look for the training videos on the Pearson Training site AFTER you have created an Adobe account.

## Available Posted Trainings & Resources:

Get the highlights of new processes and accommodation updates for 2026!

- What's New or Improved Quick Guide for Spring 2026
- What's New or Improved for Spring 2026 Training Video

New test form bundles and file layout template explained:

- Spring 2026 Accommodation Field Guide
- Spring 2026 Accommodations Updates/Improvements - All Staff Video
- Spring 2026 SIS Vendor Training
- Spring 2025-2026 Accommodations Upload Template Crosswalk
- Spring 2026 Accommodation Upload Template

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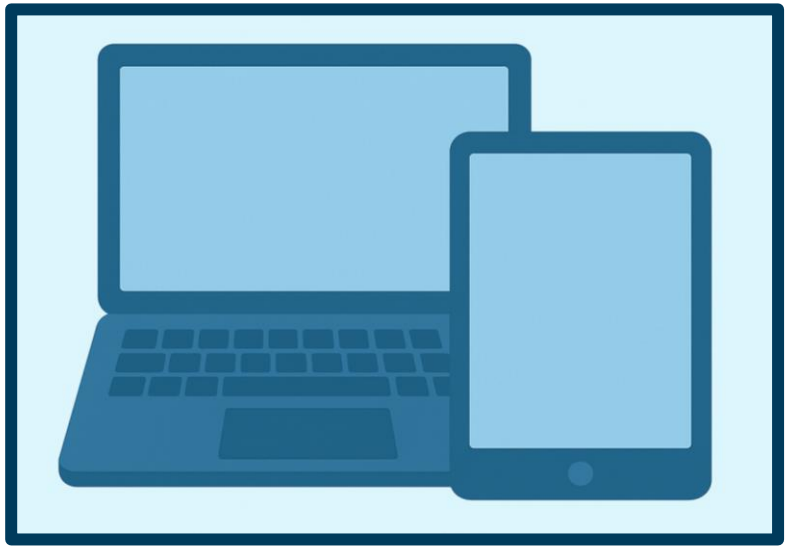
# Illinois Assessment of Readiness

## LOANER DEVICE PROGRAM



If you are a district that will need testing devices for the 2026 testing administration, please reach out to ISBE or Pearson for assistance.

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# Illinois Assessment of Readiness

- ✓ **Accommodations Upload**—You are currently able to add student accommodations into the platform. Changes can continue to be made up until the student begins testing.
- ✓ **The AF&A Manual**—All of the sections of the manual are posted. The AF&A Section 2 includes a list of the universal tools and supports that are included on a standard test form. Note--Text-to-Speech for math is now a universal tool.
- ✓ **Locally provided Accommodations**—ISBE no longer captures locally provided accommodations within the platform. You will still need to document and administer those accommodations at the local level, just as you do for daily instruction.
- ✓ **LaunchPad Clean-Up**—Please be sure to disable users from Launchpad who no longer need access to the platform.

# Illinois Assessment of Readiness

- ✓ **Dual Language Learners**—Please be sure confer with students in advance to make the selection for their preferred language. The test cannot be changed once students begin testing. Students can use the practice tests to help make their decision.
- ✓ **Support Site Reorganized**—Pearson is updating and reorganizing the summative resources and trainings.
- ✓ **Administration Cards**—The test administration cards will be visible in the platform on February 9th. You will then be enabled to create proctor groups.
- ✓ **Testing Exemptions**—All students attending an Illinois public school must participate in the state assessment. The only acceptable test exemptions are listed on the RNVTA guidance document. Parents do not have the option to refuse the state assessment.

# Contact Information

## ISBE Website Illinois Assessment of Readiness

Victoria Henderson: Illinois Assessment of Readiness Coordinator

Email: assessment@isbe.net

ISBE Support Phone: 1-866-317-6034
Pearson Support Phone: 1-833-213-3879
Pearson Support Site: il.mypearsonsupport.com

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DYNAMIC®
LEARNING MAPS

# Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA)

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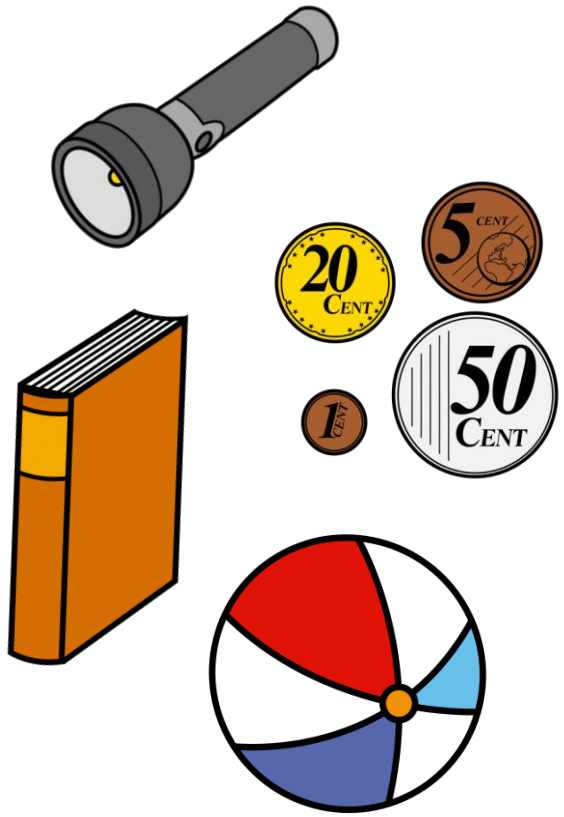
# Science Field Test Testlets

- Because DLM will be rolling out an updated Science assessment next year, all students taking science in 2026 will complete field test testlets
- A materials collection list, specific to Spring 2026 Field Test Testlets, is available to teachers.
- Teachers are encouraged to use materials already available to them, particularly in their classrooms
- Teachers should use materials already familiar to their students
- Teachers should keep student safety in mind when selecting materials

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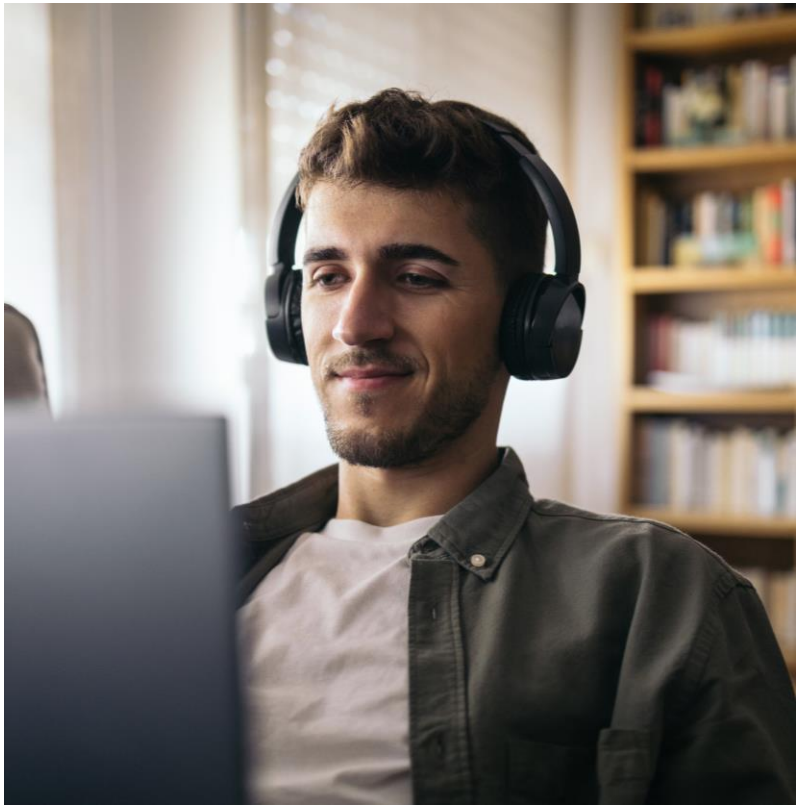
# Did you know?

- DLM has several helpful videos available
  - Most are under 2 minutes
- Visit the DLM webpage, District Staff Video Resources for YE States.
- Particularly helpful videos include:
  - Adding and editing rosters
  - Adding and editing users
  - Exiting students
  - Monitoring the assessment using extracts



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# Missing a Student in Kite?

| Is the student served in your district? | |
|---|---|
| YES | NO |
| 1. Review student's SIS record<br>2. Ensure alternate assessment indicator is "YES"<br>3. Update the indicator as appropriate<br>4. Wait until the following Friday when the weekly enrollment upload is completed | 1. Consult with the serving school because home schools are unable to see these students in Kite<br>2. Confirm accuracy of student's data, ensuring student's accountability school and grade level in Kite matches the student's SIS record |

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## Contact Information

ISBE Website Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment

DLM Website Illinois DLM

Pam Hartwig: Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment Coordinator

Email: assessment@isbe.net

DLM Support: dlm-support@ku.edu

ISBE Support Phone: 1-866-317-6034

DLM Service Desk Phone: 1-855-277-9751

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**ACT with Writing (grade 11 and 12 as required)**

**PreACT Secure (grade 10)**

**PreACT 9 Secure (grade 9)**

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# Spring 2026 Resources

Please visit the following resources to learn more about the Spring 2026 administration of the ACT with Writing, PreACT Secure, and PreACT 9 Secure:

- ISBE High School Assessment website
- ACT-hosted web page for Illinois
- ACT Email Communications Index

More information for spring 2026 will continue to be added as more details and resources become available.

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# Webinars and Office Hours

**Register on the ISBE high school website or the ACT-hosted web page for Illinois.**

- Illinois ACT State Testing Office Hours - Register Now!
- Accommodations and Supports Office Hours - Register Now!
  - ***Feb. 10 & Feb. 26 Topic: "Training Your Staff"***

- ACT with Writing Accommodations Webinar - ***OnDemand Available Now!***
- ACT with Writing Pre-Test Webinar - ***OnDemand Available Now!***
- ACT with Writing Test Day Webinar - ***OnDemand Available Now!***
- PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure Pre-Test Webinar - ***OnDemand Available Now!***
- PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure Test Day Webinar - February 3, 2026 (11AM)
- Technical Readiness Webinar - February 13, 2026 (11AM)

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# Technology Information

- All student are expected to test online except in rare circumstances when paper format is needed as an accommodation.

- Technology resources are available on the ACT-hosted web page for Illinois under "Step 1: Pre-Administration." Share these resources with your technology coordinator.

- Prepare for Testing
  - Technical Guide for Online Testing (pdf)
  - Technical Readiness Checklist (pdf)
  - TestNav Support (website)
  - Before Test Day Checklist (pdf)

- Technical Readiness Webinar – February 13, 2026 (11AM)

*More resources about preparing for test day will be available in ACT Now and in the TCM training content, including a test day checklist, system demos, and tutorials.*

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# Spring 2026 Required Content Areas

## ACT with Writing (grade 11 and 12 as required): English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing

*Note: The science and writing components of the ISBE-provided ACT are required for students in Illinois. Due to changes to national test date options, you may see the ACT referred to as **ACT + Science** and/or **ACT + Science + Writing**. Regardless of the naming conventions, the ISBE-provided ACT administration does include both science and writing.*

## PreACT Secure (grade 10): English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science

## PreACT 9 Secure (grade 9): English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science

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# Enhanced ACT

- Standard time is shown in the chart below (3 hours, 25 minutes of testing time).
- The college-reportable ACT Composite score includes only English, Mathematics, and Reading. This is referred to as the "Core ACT Administration."
- ISBE requires all five sections: English, Mathematics  Reading, Science, and Writing.

## Table 1. Summary of the Number of Items and Testing Time on the Legacy and Enhanced ACT by Section

The following table shows a comparison of the total number of items and testing time by section for the legacy and enhanced ACT test.

| | ACT - Legacy | | ACT - Enhanced | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Items | Total Time (Min) | Items | Total Time (Min) |
| English | 75 | 45 | 50* | 35 |
| Math | 60 | 60 | 45* | 50 |
| Reading | 40 | 35 | 36* | 40 |
| Science | 40 | 35 | 40* | 40 |
| Writing | 1 | 40 | 1 | 40 |
| Core ACT Administration** | 215 | 175 | 131* | 125 |
| ISBE-Provided Administration*** | | | 172*** | 205*** |

*Number includes embedded field-test items that do not contribute to score points.
**The core administration is the shortest administration of the test and results in a college-reportable Composite Score. The core administration for the legacy ACT is English, Math, Reading, and Science. The core administration for the enhanced ACT is English, Math, and Reading.

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# Timing Schedule for All Assessments

- Standard time and Accommodations testing times are available in ACT's Accessibility Support Guides (ASGs):
  - ASG for ACT with Writing
  - ASG for PreACT Secure and PreACT 9 Secure

- NEW document on the ISBE High School Assessment website has all times for all tests:

  - Spring 2026 Test Timing Charts for ACT with Writing, PreACT Secure and PreACT 9 Secure

- Refer to the Schedule Flexibility Policy for additional administration considerations.

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# Timing Schedule for All Assessments

www.isbe.net/Documents/2026-Timing-Charts-ACT-PreACTSecure.pdf

| ACT with Writing<br>Authorized Timing | Test 1—English | Test 2—Mathematics | Test 3—Reading | Test 4—Science | Writing Test |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Standard time, single day | 35 minutes | 50 minutes | 40 minutes | 40 minutes | 40 minutes |
| Double time over multiple days | 70 minutes | 100 minutes | 80 minutes | 80 minutes | 80 minutes |
| Triple time over multiple days | 105 minutes | 150 minutes | 120 minutes | 120 minutes | 120 minutes |
| Standard time over multiple days | 35 minutes | 50 minutes | 40 minutes | 40 minutes | 40 minutes |
| Breaks as needed, single day | 35 minutes | 50 minutes | 40 minutes | 40 minutes | 40 minutes |
| One and one-half time, single day | 52 minutes and 30 seconds | 75 minutes | 60 minutes | 60 minutes | 60 minutes |
| One and one-half time over multiple days | 52 minutes and 30 seconds | 75 minutes | 60 minutes | 60 minutes | 60 minutes |
| Double time writing only, single day | 35 minutes | 50 minutes | 40 minutes | 40 minutes | 80 minutes |

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# Timing Schedule for All Assessments

www.isbe.net/Documents/2026-Timing-Charts-ACT-PreACTSecure.pdf

| PreACT Secure<br>Content Area Test Timing Chart | Test 1—English | Test 2—Mathematics | Test 3—Reading | Test 4—Science |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Standard time, multiple days;<br>or standard time, breaks as needed,<br>single day<br>Note: Total break time cannot exceed 90 minutes. | 35 minutes | 45 minutes | 40 minutes | 40 minutes |
| One and one-half time, single day or multiple days | 52 minutes and 30 seconds | 67 minutes and 30 seconds | 60 minutes | 60 minutes |
| Double time, multiple days | 70 minutes | 90 minutes | 80 minutes | 80 minutes |
| Triple time, multiple days | 105 minutes | 135 minutes | 120 minutes | 120 minutes |

| PreACT 9 Secure<br>Content Area Test Timing Chart | Test 1—English | Test 2—Mathematics | Test 3—Reading | Test 4—Science |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Standard time, multiple days;<br>or standard time, breaks as needed,<br>single day<br>Note: Total break time cannot exceed 90 minutes. | 35 minutes | 45 minutes | 40 minutes | 35 minutes |
| One and one-half time, single day or multiple days | 52 minutes and 30 seconds | 67 minutes and 30 seconds | 60 minutes | 52 minutes and 30 seconds |
| Double time, multiple days | 70 minutes | 90 minutes | 80 minutes | 70 minutes |
| Triple time, multiple days | 105 minutes | 135 minutes | 120 minutes | 105 minutes |

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# Who Must Test?

- Unless they are rostered to take DLM-AA instead, students in grade 11 and grade 12 as required will participate in the ACT with Writing.
- Unless they are rostered to take DLM-AA instead, students in grades 9 and 10 will participate in the PreACT 9 Secure and the PreACT Secure, respectively.
- Students repeating grade 11 who have tested previously must test for accountability but have met the separate but related diploma requirement.
- Students who are completely or partially homeschooled **do not participate unless** they are receiving instruction from the public school in a tested content area.
    - ❖ *Note: These students will be included on the Pre-ID file and loaded into ACT Now. Apply RNVTA 16 during the correction window for those not required to test. For students who test, they will take the **entire test**, and staff must contact ISBE after scores are posted to suppress data for subjects in which they are not receiving instruction.*
- All **English learners**, including those for whom it is their first year in a U.S. school, must participate in all parts of the assessment, assigned based on their grade level in SIS.
- All **foreign exchange students** whom your school has classified as being in grade 9, 10, or 11, must participate.

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# Diploma Requirement and Exemption Requests

- Taking the state's final accountability test, currently ACT with Writing or DLM-AA in grade 11 or 12) is a requirement for students to receive a regular diploma. A self-funded national administration of SAT or SAT with Essay or ACT/ACT with Writing does not meet this requirement. See these links to the Illinois School Code and ISBE Rule and search for the word "diploma" to find the references.

- School staff are required to attempt to test all students enrolled during the spring test administration window, and exemption paperwork may be submitted only after all attempts to test the student have been exhausted and unsuccessful.

- For students who may be scheduled to receive a regular diploma *before* the school's next ISBE-provided administration ***or*** for those who do not test and are not exempt, districts ***may choose to submit*** exemption documents.

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# Diploma Requirement and Exemption Requests

**Do not test students who are no longer enrolled in SIS.**
**Exit early grads from SIS and submit exemption paperwork if your district plans to award a regular diploma.**

From https://www.isbe.net/Pages/HS-Assessment.aspx

Overview and General Information

- **Diploma Exemption Documents**
  Submit a diploma exemption only for a student who will be scheduled to receive a regular high school diploma before the next administration of the state's final accountability assessment (i.e., ACT with Writing or grade 11 DLM-AA) and hasn't tested or been identified in SIS as being exempt or for a student whose exemption was not identified through ISBE SIS programming according to the flowchart document. If your district believes there is evidence in SIS of an exemption, please write to assessment@isbe.net for verification before completing any of the diploma exemption paperwork.
  - Instructions for Secure Submission to ISBE
  - Exemption Request form
  - Certification of Request form

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# Pre-ID Guidance

- Spring 2026 ACT/PreACT Secure Pre-ID Guidance Document
- **Page 1** topics:
  - How the Pre-ID roster is created
  - How to address non-tested/non-exempt students who are scheduled to graduate before the spring administration
  - How to edit a student's Testing RCDTS code
- **Page 2 topics:**
  - Confirming participation in ACT Now
  - Student transmission schedule from Pre-ID into ACT Now
    First transmission: 01/14/2026 | Next transmission: 01/30/2026 (TODAY!)
  - Details about student transmissions into ACT Now
  - Pre-ID report access
  - Contact Information for further assistance
- **Page 3 topics:**
  - Non-College Reportable scores

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# Spring 2026 Test Event Dates

## ACT with Writing

### (grade 11 and 12 as required*)

**Digital Testing Window Options**

- 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

*Note: Each two-week Test Event begins on a Tuesday. Monday testing is available during the second week of each two-week option.*

**Current grade 12 students without a valid grade 11 or 12 score or qualifying exemption from any previous ISBE-provided administration will be rostered automatically to take ACT with Writing.*

www.isbe.net/Documents/State-Assessment-Dates-2025-26.pdf

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# Spring 2026 Test Event Dates

**PreACT 9 Secure (for grade 9)**
**PreACT Secure (for grade 10)**

**Digital Test Event Options**

- Test Event 1: March 16–27, 2026
- Test Event 2: March 30–April 10, 2026
- Test Event 3: April 13–24, 2026

www.isbe.net/Documents/State-Assessment-Dates-2025-26.pdf

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# Spring 2026 Test Event Scheduling

***Remember...***

- Testing should not be administered on weekends.
- 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.
- 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.

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# Spring 2026 Timeline

| Activity | Timeline |
|---|---|
| Review Pre-ID Roster in SIS | Now/Ongoing |
| ACT's Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) system opens to submit requests for accommodations and English Learner (EL) Supports for ACT with Writing | September 8, 2025 |
| ACT Now opens to confirm participation for ACT with Writing | November 3, 2025 |
| ACT Now opens to confirm participation for PreACT Secure and PreACT 9 Secure | January 5, 2026 |
| First Transmission of Student Data to ACT Now | January 14, 2026 |
| Deadline to confirm participation in ACT Now for the ACT with Writing, PreACT Secure, and PreACT 9 Secure spring 2026 administration | February 13, 2026 |

- ACT with Writing Schedule of Events
- PreACT Secure/PreACT 9 Secure Schedule of Events

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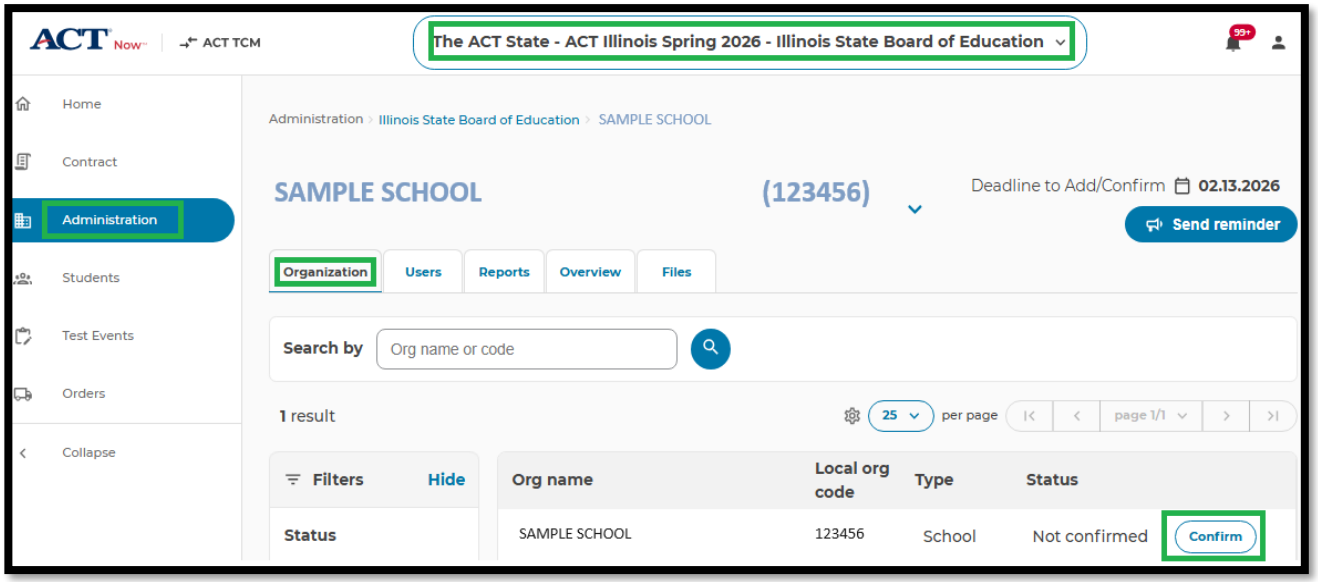
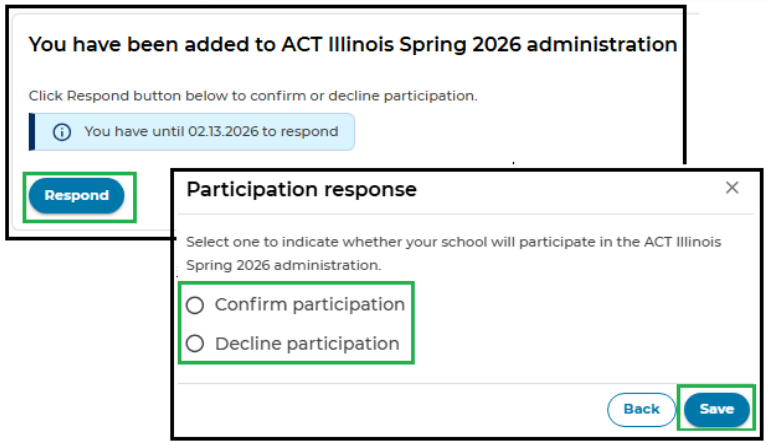
# Confirm Participation in ACT Now-Confirm ASAP!




- Confirm participation for all three assessments as soon as possible but ***no later than February 13, 2026***.
- Participation status of each school will be updated weekly here.

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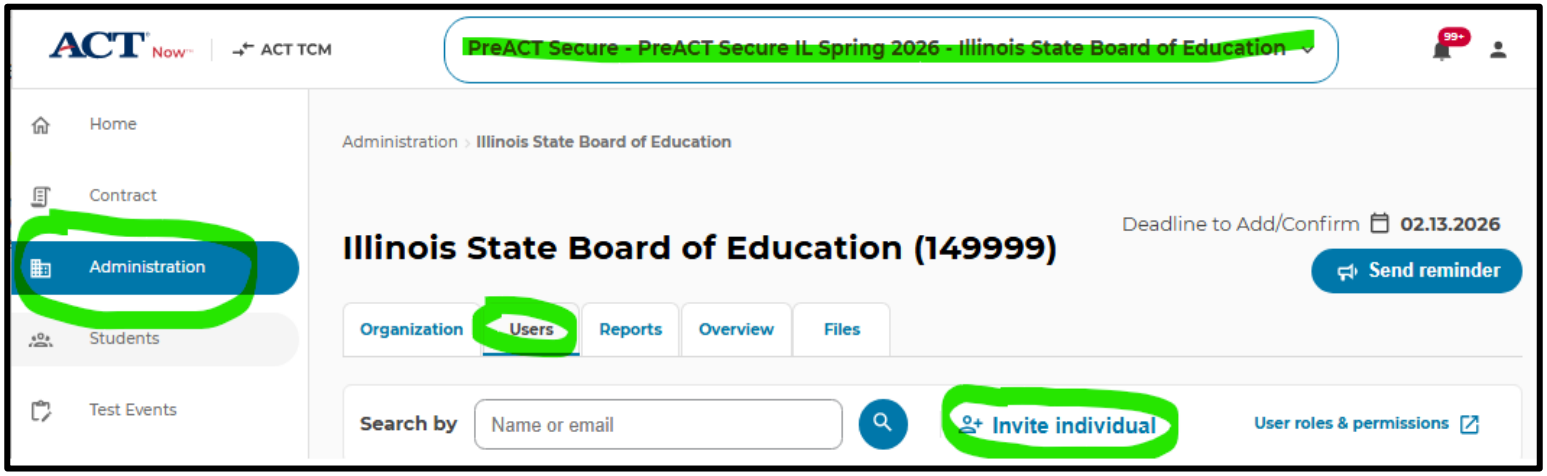
# Invite Users to an Administration in ACT Now: Adding Users with the User Interface

- Staff can add users to ACT Now using a file upload or through the user interface. Lateral role assignment is not permitted in ACT Now (e.g., a DTC cannot assign a user to the DTC role).
- Toggle to correct administration at the top (ACT, PreACT Secure, or PreACT 9 Secure).
- Open the **Administration** tab.
- Manually invite users by selecting "**Users**" and "**Invite individual**"

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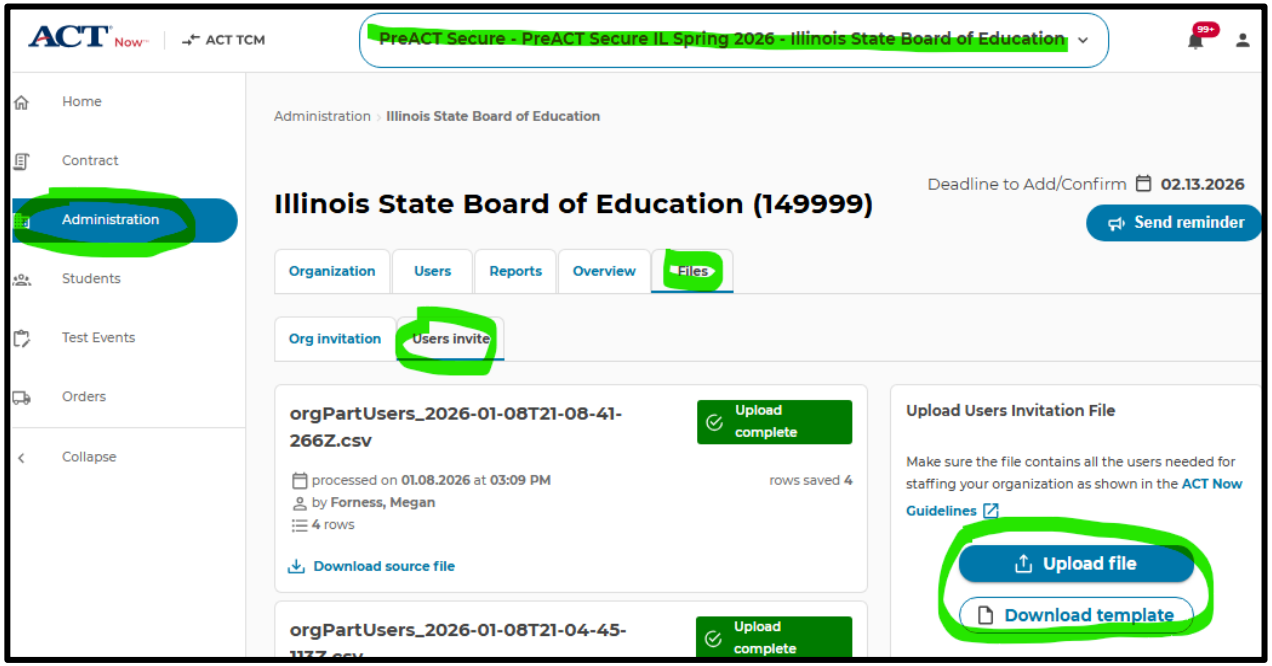
# Invite Users to an Administration in ACT Now: Adding Users with a File Upload

- Toggle to correct administration at the top (ACT, PreACT Secure, or PreACT 9 Secure).
- Open the **Administration** tab.
- Upload a file by selecting "**Files**" and "**Users invite**"

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# Student Transmission from SIS into ACT Now

- Updates are sent based on the schedule on page 2 of the Pre-ID Guidance document.

- SIS update transmissions to ACT Now will ***move students from one school to another*** if the grade is the same and the Testing RCDTS code changes.

- SIS update transmissions to ACT Now ***cannot delete students*** who were loaded in a prior transmission.

- In ACT Now, manually "Unenroll" or identify as "Will not test" students who:
  1. Move out of Illinois
  2. Change their "test to be taken" to DLM-AA
  3. Change grade levels

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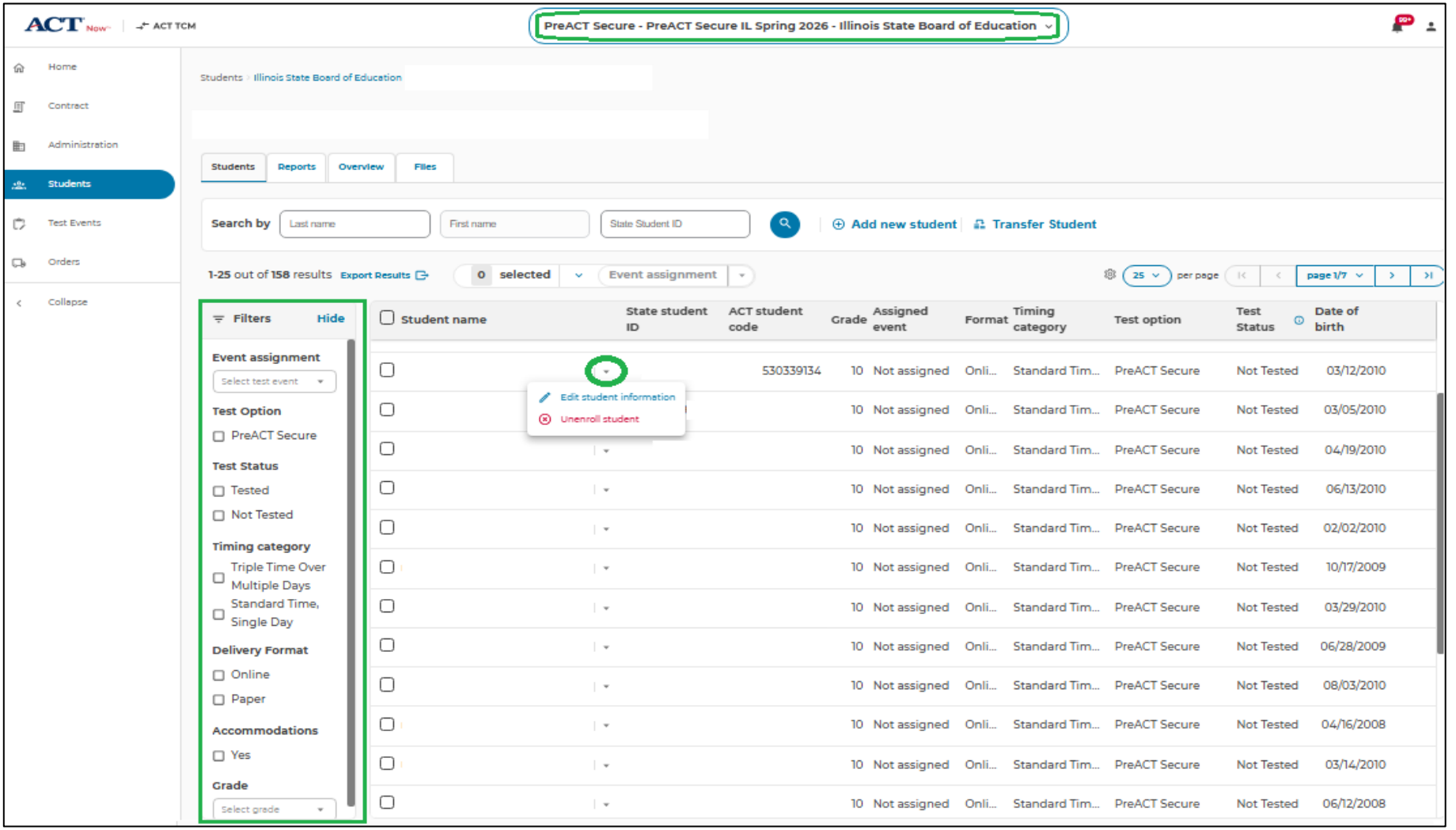
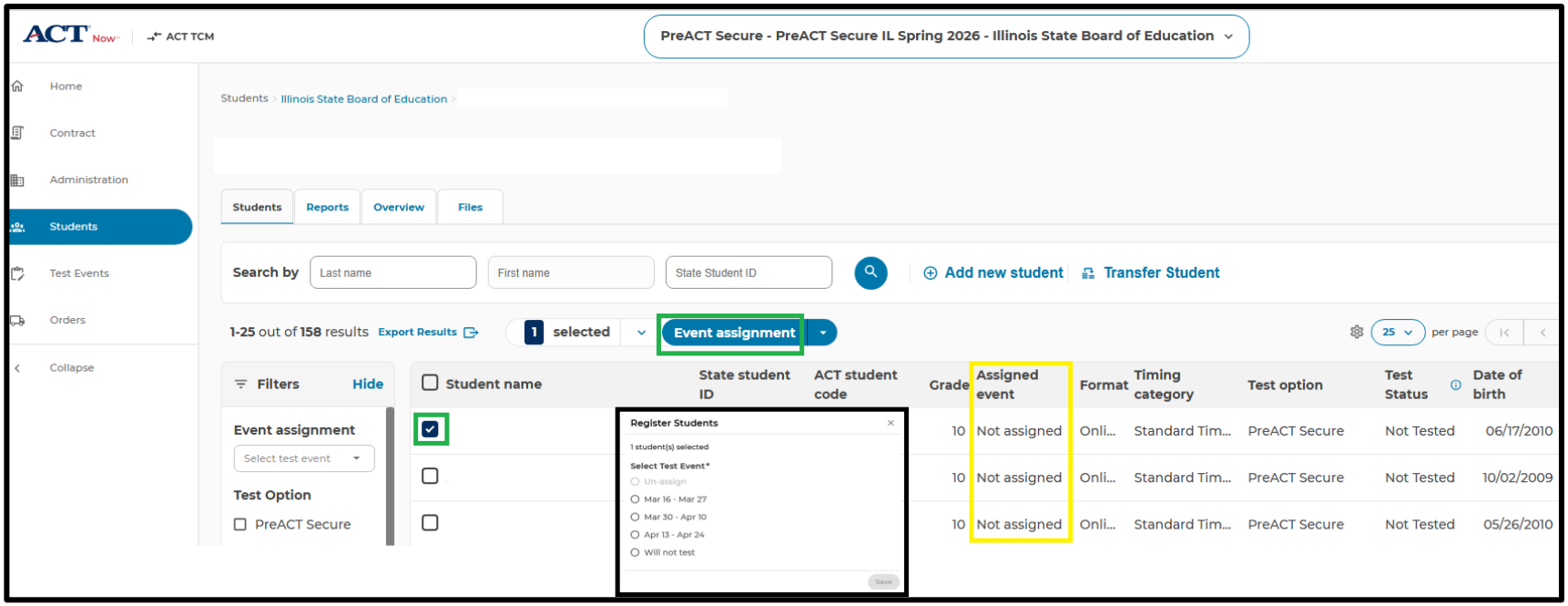
# Viewing/Editing Students in ACT Now ("Students" tab)



# Assigning a Test Event to Students in ACT Now

- Click in the box to the left of a student's name to assign a Test Event.
- You may select the box at the top to select all students on the current view.
- Click the words in white: "Event assignment" to select the Test Event.

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# Accommodations and English Learner (EL) Supports for ACT Assessments

- **For students taking the ACT with Writing:**
  Accommodations and EL Supports requests must be entered in ACT's Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) system by the school that will test the student. TAA opened on **September 8, 2025**, to receive requests for the spring 2026 administration.
  - Accessibility Supports Guide (ASG) Updated 12/09/2025
  - Of the three available EL Supports (Extended time, Translated Directions, and ACT-Authorized Bilingual Word-to-Word Dictionaries), only extended time must be requested in TAA. See *EL Supports Documentation Requirements*.
  - Flexible request deadlines are based on a student's Test Event assignment:
    TE #1 Deadline is 02/11/26, TE #2 Deadline is 02/25/26, and TE #3 Deadline is 03/11/26.

- **For students taking the PreACT Secure or PreACT 9 Secure:**
  Accommodations and EL Supports must be entered directly in ACT Now. Students were transmitted from SIS on January 14, 2026, so you may begin this work.
  - Accessibility Supports Guide (ASG) Updated 12/03/2025

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# Accommodations and English Learner (EL) Supports for ACT Assessments Resources

- ACT-Hosted web page for Illinois
  "Step 1: Pre-Administration"
  - ACT with Writing "Request Accommodations and English Learner (EL) Supports"
  - PreACT Secure "Manage Accommodations and English Learner (EL) Support"
  - PreACT 9 Secure "Manage Accommodations and English Learner (EL) Supports"

- ISBE High School Assessment website
  "Accommodations and Accessibility Supports"

- 2025-26 ACT Accommodations and Supports Office Hours-Register Now!

- ACT with Writing Accommodations and English Learner (EL) Supports Webinar
  Available On Demand

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# Updated Student Practice Resources

ISBE High School Assessment Website

Practice Resources

**ACT with Writing Resources**

- The ACT with Writing Online Practice Test
  IMPORTANT: Click on “Practice Tests" once you have navigated to the TestNav sign on page. No log in credentials are needed.
- Preparing for the ACT Test
  This resource contains a full-length practice ACT with Writing test, test details, test-taking strategies, what to expect on test day, and a link to a Spanish version of this resource. In Illinois, the science and writing sections are required.
- Preparing for the ACT Test: Testing with Alternate Formats
  This resource includes information about preparing for the ACT test with ACT-authorized alternate format accommodations, information about the multiple-choice and writing sections, test-taking strategies, and what to expect on test day. In Illinois, the science and writing sections are required.
- Alternate Format Practice Tests
  Schools may order free alternate format practice tests by completing and mailing this form.

**PreACT Secure and PreACT 9 Secure Resources**

- PreACT Secure and PreACT 9 Secure Online Practice Test
  IMPORTANT: Click on “Practice Tests" once you have navigated to the TestNav sign on page. No log in credentials are needed.
- Visit **Step 1: Pre-Administration** on the ACT-hosted web page for additional PreACT Secure Student Resources.
- Visit **Step 1: Pre-Administration** on the ACT-hosted web page for additional PreACT 9 Secure Student Resources.

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## Contact Information

ISBE High School Assessment Website

ACT-Hosted Web Page for Illinois

Megan Forness: High School Assessment Coordinator

Email: assessment@isbe.net

ISBE Support Phone: 1-866-317-6034

ACT Customer Support Phone: 1-855-730-0400

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**Kindergarten Individual Development Survey**

Every Illinois Child Ready for Kindergarten

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# KIDS Next Steps

**Fall 25**

**KIDS Exemption Submission closes today.**

**Prepare for Next Fall**

**KIDS Required Implementation Training is open.**

**The 2nd rating period which is the Winter Rating Window opens in January**

The winter rating window will open in January for districts who would like to participate. This is not required.

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# KIDS Exemptions

KIDS Exemptions are posted on the KIDS webpage under News and Updates.

- 📧 ISBE emailed all districts to notify teachers to verify that all student had been rated.
- ✅ If **all students are rated**, no exemption form is required.
- The next few slides will provide guidance on the exemption submission.

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# KIDS Exemptions

Please Note

- A reason code is now REQUIRED for any enrolled kindergarten student who **was not** rated during the fall assessment window.

When to submit an exemption:

- Students who were **not** rated for the fall window.
- Students who received an "unable to rate“ rating on one of the 14 measures.

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# KIDS Exemptions

What information is needed for the exemption documentation?

- District full name
- School full name
- School RCDTS code
- Student's state identification number (9 digits) (not the local district id)
- Exemption code
- Documentation(if available)
- Explanation

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# KIDS Exemptions

Where do I submit the documentation?

- All exemptions must be submitted using
  - "Send documentation via the Send ISBE a File to ISBE emailer KIDS Exemption Submissions with the subject line: [District Name] Fall 25 KIDS Exemption"
- "Send ISBE a File" is on the ISBE.net/KIDS webpage in the upper left corner under "System Quick Links."

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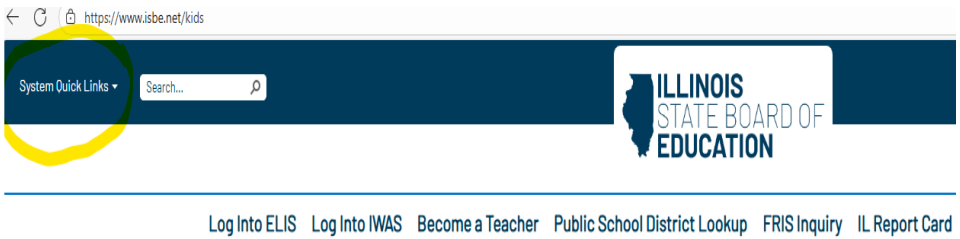
# Exemptions Documentation

- Be sure to select "KIDS Exemption Submission" for the ISBE email receiver information.
- Documentation to be submitted includes
  - the Excel spreadsheet
  - Any supporting documentation / written justification for missing ratings.
- Documentation must be received by ISBE no later than close of business Jan. 30, 2026.

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# KIDS Training is OPEN

- You can find the registration link for the mandatory KIDS training on the official KIDS webpage under
  - "News and Updates."
- To complete the online registration; hover over and click
  Kindergarten Individual Development Survey Implementation Required Training
- We encourage principals and administrators to complete the KIDS training to
  have administrative access & support kindergarten teachers

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# KIDS Training

- If this is your first time completing the training, you will need to register for a new account. When your account is created you will have immediate access to the KIDS training program on Ed Leaders Network.
- If there is no email, please contact Michelle Escapa: mescapa@roe51.org
- You will have 10 days to complete the training

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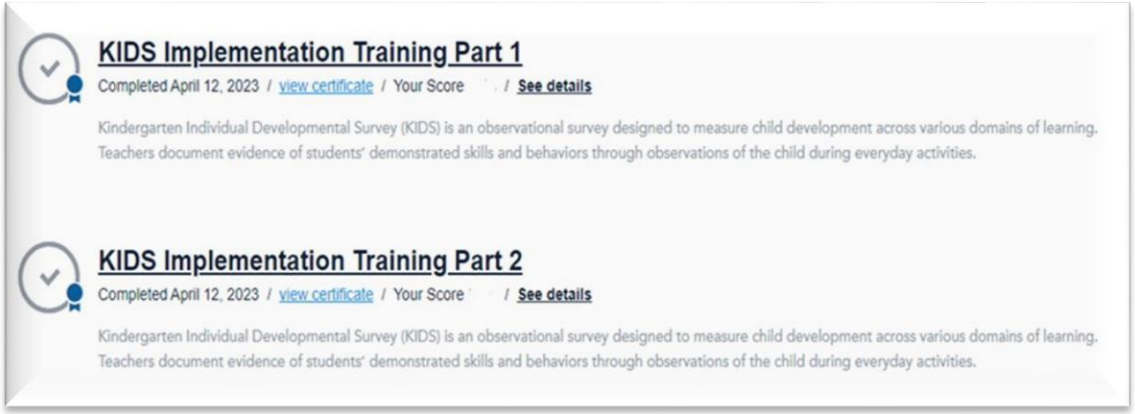
# KIDS Required Training

The online self- paced training course has two parts that must be completed.




- The educator must achieve an 85% on both courses. The educator will get multiple chances to pass with 85%.
- Download both training certificates for your records.
- Once the course is completed, allow 5-10 business days for the KIDS training to appear in your ELIS account.

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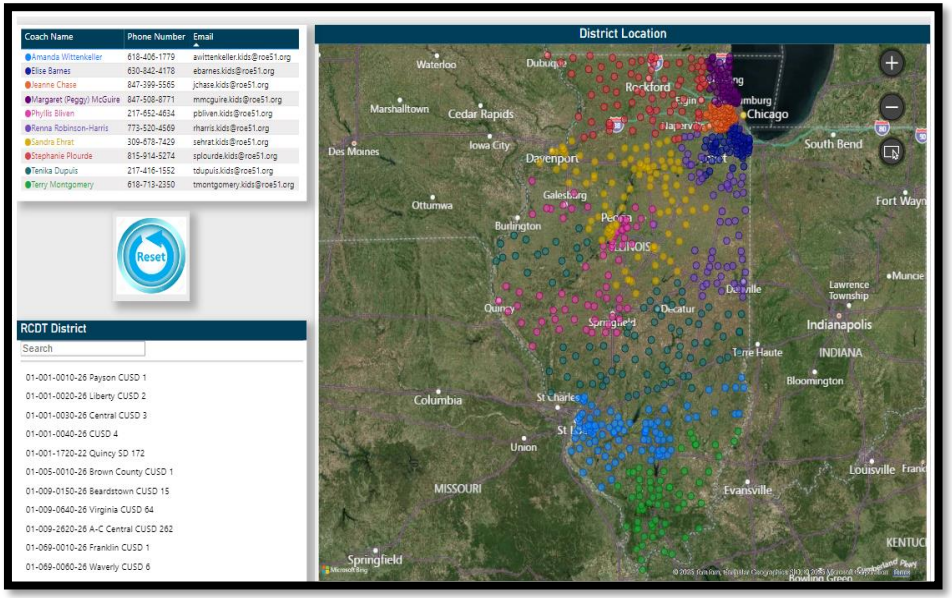
# KIDS Coaches

- Coaches provide professional development to districts requesting support.
- For questions regarding professional opportunities with KIDS coaches, contact Michelle Escapa via email at mescapa@roe51.org.
- Use the KIDS Coach contact Map to view the KIDS coach assigned to your district.
- Hover your mouse over your region, and the KIDS coach contact information will appear.

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# KIDS Professional Development

Access the KIDS professional Development Calendar:

View upcoming training session and stay informed about professional learning opportunities with KIDS Coaches

KIDS: Professional Development Calendar

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## Contact Information

ISBE.net/kids

KIDS Questions? Please send them to

Email: assessment@isbe.net

Akilah Griffin: KIDS Consultant

ISBE Support Phone: 1-866-317-6034

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# Upcoming Assessment Update Webinars

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# Webinar Dates/Times

| Webinar Date | Webinar Time |
|---|---|
| Friday, February 6, 2026 | 10:00-11:00 AM CDT |
| Friday, February 13, 2026 | 10:00-11:00 AM CDT |
| Friday, February 20, 2026 | 10:00-11:00 AM CDT |
| Friday, February 27, 2026 | 10:00-11:00 AM CDT |

Registration links for upcoming webinars and archived recordings and PDF presentations of past webinars are available on the Assessment Communications webpage under "Presentations and Webinars."

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# Contact Information

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# Assessment Contact Information

| | |
|---|---|
| ISBE Assessment Department | Phone: 866-317-6034<br>Email: assessment@isbe.net |
| Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) | Phone: 833-213-3879<br>Pearson Support Webpage |
| Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) | Phone: 833-213-3879<br>Pearson Support Webpage |
| Kindergarten Individual Developmental Survey (KIDS) | Phone: 866-317-6034<br>Email: assessment@isbe.net |
| ISBE High School Assessment<br>(ACT with Writing, PreACT Secure, and PreACT 9 Secure) | ACT Phone: 855-730-0400<br>ACT Email: statetesting@act.org<br>ACT-hosted web page for Illinois |
| Dynamic Learning Maps-Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) | Phone: 885-277-9751<br>Email: DLM-support@ku.edu |
| Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) (ACCESS) | Phone: 855-787-9615<br>Email: wida@datarecognitioncorp.com |
| SIS Helpdesk | Phone: 217-558-3600 (option 3) |

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# Thank You

Next Webinar:
February 6, 2026
10-11 am

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