ISBE Student Assessment Update

Illinois State Board of Education

February 13, 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
- 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)

- 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

Grades Served

P K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 U

(8, 9, 10, 11, 12 checked)

- **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

Webinar
Agenda

- Welcome / Introductions
- ACT with Writing, PreACT Secure, PreACT 9 Secure Pre-ID
- Fall Course Assignments
- Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) Pre-ID
- SY 2025-26 Evidence-Based Funding Verification Enrollment Counts
- Illinois Assessment of Readiness Pre-ID
- Illinois Science Assessment Pre-ID
- Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate
- Exit Student Enrollment
- State Course Catalog
- Reports
- Upcoming Key Dates
- Next Steps for Districts
- Where to Direct Questions

Presentation
Webinar

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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

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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WIDA™/ACCESS

WIDA Upcoming Workshops

WIDA Wants Your Input

WIDA professional learning is hard at work developing new learning opportunities, but they can't do it without you. Your insights are essential to inform the design of upcoming workshops. WIDA invites you to [complete the survey](#) by February 27, 2026. It should take about 10 minutes.

WIDA Fellows Program Nominations

The deadline to submit 2026-2027 WIDA Fellows program nominations is February 27. Twenty expert educators will be selected to join a dynamic professional learning community and provide guidance and feedback on the development of WIDA professional learning materials.

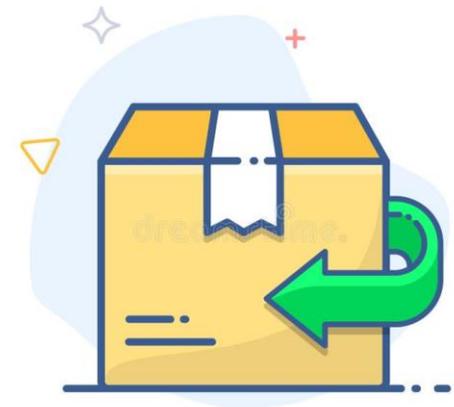Browse the WIDA Fellows webpage to learn about the program, its benefits and the nomination process.

Returning ACCESS Testing Materials

The final day of ACCESS testing will be

March 3, 2026.

[Instructions for returning paper materials](#)

are posted in the WIDA Secure Portal.

Paper materials should by picked up by UPS

no later than March 6, 2026.

Contact Information
ISBE Website ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS   WIDA Public Website Illinois WIDA Public Site
WIDA AMS Illinois WIDA AMS   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)

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 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.

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

Contact Information
ISBE Website [Illinois Science Assessment](#)

John Hicks: ISA Coordinator

Email: assessment@isbe.net

Phone: 866-317-6034

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(IAR)

Illinois Assessment of Readiness

2026 IAR KEY DATES

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

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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.

- o 2026 Field Test Participation – Sorted by School Name
- o 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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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.

Training

Access short training modules that provide a step-by-step walkthrough on using the Illinois Administration Platform and tasks for online testing. Additionally, you will be able to earn Professional Development (PD) Plus credits for your participation.

To access the IAR/ISA training videos, sign in or create an account using your work email and password. Enter your state IEIN number, confirm your profile, then proceed to watch the videos and earn PD credit. If you do not have an LMS account, you can create one by clicking the Illinois LMS button.

Illinois LMS

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

create account

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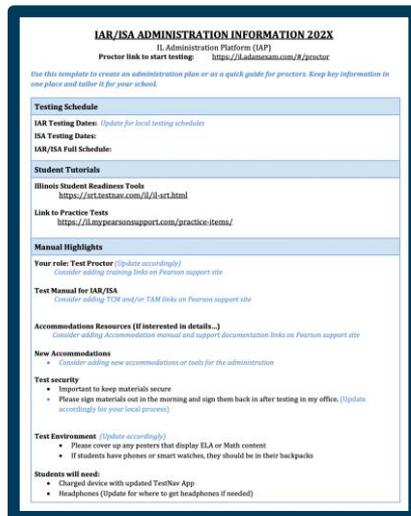
Illinois Assessment of Readiness

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](#)

create account

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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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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IAR TEST MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

Available Posted Resources:

- Spring 2026 Accommodation Field Guide
- Spring 2026 Test Coordinator Manual
- Spring 2026 Test Administration Manual

- Spring 2026 Accessibility Features & Accommodations Manual
    - Appendix A: Protocol for the Use of the Scribe Accommodation and for Transcribing Students Responses
    - Appendix B: Protocol for the Use of the Human Reader and Human Signer Accommodation

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IAR TEST MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

Creating Proctor Groups

There are two main ways to manage proctor groups:

- Add students to proctor groups in advance of testing.
- Create empty proctor groups and have students sign into the proctor group on the morning of testing.

ISBE's recommended approach to establishing proctor groups is to include students in proctor groups prior to testing. Establishing proctor groups in advance allows you to:

- ✓ Organize groups to generate test codes based on content area and grade level.
- ✓ Determine student seating arrangements according to Proctor Groups, which may be organized by homeroom, English teacher, small group, or other criteria as appropriate.
- ✓ Enter relevant details for each Proctor Group, including the Test Proctor's name, grade, subject, and designated testing room.
- ✓ Print student and proctor print cards for the campus.

- Creating Proctor Groups
- Print TestNav Print Cards

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TEST MANAGEMENT

Administration Cards

If your school has been selected to participate in the field test, then there will be an additional Administration Card for the participating grades with an **English Language Arts Section 3 SP26** label.

Grade 7 English Language Arts Section 3 SP26

📅 03/02/26 - 04/17/26   INACTIVE

— — STUDENTS ⋮   PROCTOR GROUPS ⋮

Sessions

Click to Load

Test
Grade 7 ELA Section 3 (SP26)

Organization
Illinois Administration Platform

IMPORTANT: You will need to create proctor groups for the field test section.

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TEST MANAGEMENT

Administration Cards

Both the home and serving school have the ability to access a student within the platform. Therefore, a school that was NOT selected to participate will see the Section 3 Administration Card housing their students for a serving school who WAS selected to participate in the field test.

You can check on the students in that group by clicking on the teal-colored bar to load the amount under that card or by clicking on the three dots to view the students and validate that they are tied to multiple organizations and that one of these other schools was most likely selected to participate in the field test.

If you are the home school and you were not selected to participate in the field test, the participating school will field test the student. You are able to monitor the student's testing progress to make sure that they finish the assessment, since the onus is always on the home school.

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ADDITIONAL ORDERS

Initial Orders that Districts and School have ALREADY received:	Paper Testing Materials available via Additional Orders

• Test Coordinator Kits
   ■ Resealable plastic bag
   ■ Paper bands
   ■ Scorable and non-scorable return labels
   ■ Return instructions sheet
   ■ Shipping carrier return instructions
• Test Coordinator Manuals
• Test Administration and Proctoring Manuals
	• Test booklets and answer documents
	• Science test kits with transcription instructions
	• Large print kits
	• Braille kits
	• Shipping boxes
	• Scorable and non-scorable return labels
	• Blank preID labels
	• Paper bands
	• Additional Test Coordinator Manuals
	• Additional Test Administration and Proctoring Manuals

Tools & Materials available for printing from the Pearson Support Site:
- All Manuals
- Math Reference Sheets (English & Spanish)
- Test Proctor Scripts
- Room Signs

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IAR TEST PROCTOR RESOURCES

Available Posted Resources:
- Spring 2026 Test Administration Manual
- Proctor Dashboard Guide

Test Proctor Scripts & Resources **(Access on the IAR Summative Resources Page)**
- Computer & Paper Based Scripts for ELA & Math
- Computer Based Visual Aides for ELA & Math
- Large Print ELA & Math Scripts
- Braille ELA & Math Scripts
- Translated Test Proctor Scripts and Audio Files (11 Languages)

Room Signs
- Go On and Stop Room Sign
- Testing Do Not Disturb Room Sign

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TRANSLATED TEST PROCTOR SCRIPTS

Say

Today, you are going to take the English language arts/literacy assessment.

You may not have any unapproved electronic devices at your desk. Making calls, texting, and taking pictures are not allowed. If you have any electronic devices, including cell phones and smart watches, with you right now, please turn them off and raise your hand. If you are found to have unapproved electronic devices during testing, your test might not be scored.

ⓘ **Select the transcript icon to the right of the audio player if you want to view the transcript.**

Translation – play audio translation file below

▶ ●   0:34   1x   ◁))   ▣

Spanish Translation

Testing proctors are required to adhere to the script provided for administering the Illinois Assessment of Readiness assessment. The bolded instructions in the SAY boxes must be read word-for-word and the wording may not be modified or paraphrased.

Note: In order to maintain the integrity of the test, students testing in different languages must be placed in a separate setting.

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VISUAL AIDS

The Computer Based Testing Script Visual Aids can be displayed at the front of the room for student viewing. These materials are available on the Pearson support site. The aids include an enlarged student testing ticket, step-by-step student-facing screenshots for signing into a test, entering seal codes, and submitting tests.

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✓ **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.

✓ **OVERNIGHT UPLOAD**—Enrollment changes will take 24 hours to update in the testing platform.

✓ **NEW TRAININGS POSTED**—Please review the training site for the newly posted trainings.
  o Test Management for Proctors & Support Staff
  o Proctor Dashboard Training
  o Seal Code Management
  o Ordering Materials

✓ **UNIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**—If a student requires an accommodation that is not listed in the AF&A manual, the school submit a request in advance by submitting this form.

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

Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA)

Spring Window

- The Spring 2026 window for administering the DLM-AA is March 11-May 6, 2026

- Testing hours are 7AM-4PM

- All students are required to test
  - Parents / guardians may not opt their student out of testing.

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Administering the DLM-AA – Where?

- Students must test in person, at school.
- Homebound students - apply an RNVTA 02 to student's correction record
- Medically exempt students – apply an RNVTA 01 to student's correction record

> To encourage the best possible assessment outcome, testing environments should be familiar to students

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Teachers: Are You Ready for Testing?

- The security agreement must be completed.

- The DLM Required Test Administrator Training must be completed.

- Students must be rostered to a teacher for each assessed subject.

- Students' First Contact Surveys must be submitted.

- Student Portal must be installed on all testing devices.

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Validate Data

- Is the student enrolled in the correct district and school?
- Is the accountability district and school correct?
- Does the student need to be enrolled in more than one district or school?
- Is the student enrolled in the correct grade?
- Is the State Student Identifier (SSID) correct?
- Is the student's name spelled correctly?
- If errors are discovered *after* the test window opens, contact Pam Hartwig for assistance.

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DLM FAQs

- Can a new teacher be added to Kite after the test window opens?
  - Yes. Contact Assessments with the teacher's name, email address and building(s)/program(s) where the teacher will administer the assessment.
- Can a student be added to Kite after the test window opens?
  - Yes. Verify the alternate assessment indicator (SIS) is updated to "yes". Contact Assessments with the student's SID to have the student added to Kite.
- We've updated the student's alternate assessment indicator to "NO". Why is the student still in Kite?
  - The student needs to be manually removed from Kite. Use reason code 18 to exit the student. The [Data Management Manual](#) has specific instructions for removing a student from Kite.
- What if an IEP meeting determines the student should no longer take the DLM after the window opens?
  - Update the student's alternate assessment indicator (SIS) to "no" and exit the student from Kite Educator Portal using reason code 18.

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DLM FAQs, cont.

- Are any additional training modules required of coordinators or administrators?
  - No modules are required for test coordinators. Training modules are optional for test coordinators. For test administrators, Illinois does not have additional training requirements beyond what is in Kite Educator Portal.

- Is the Parent Portal available in Illinois?
  - Yes. Please contact Assessments for further details.

- Is language translation allowed?
  - Language translation is allowed for math and science. The teacher will need to designate this support in the PNP Profile.

- Are Test Administrators required to retain students' written products?
  - Once the teacher uploads the student's written product, the writing sample should be destroyed.

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Practice Activities and Released Testlets

- The Guide to Practice Activities and Released Testlets is a resource available to any teacher wanting to better prepare themselves and their students for the DLM.
- Teachers and students use demo student accounts to log in and access testlets and practice activities
- Teachers and students can repeat the testlets and activities as many times as needed
- Testlets are available for ELA, math and science.

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)

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 Email Communications Index](#)
- [ACT-hosted web page for Illinois](#)*

*This resource contains resources for all steps of administration:
- *Step 1: Pre-Administration*
- *Step 2: Test Administration*
- *Step 3: Post-Administration*

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!
  - *Feb. 10 (available OnDemand) & Feb. 26 Topic: "Training Your Staff"*
- Accommodations and Supports Office Hours - Register Now!
- 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 - *OnDemand Available Now!*
- Technical Readiness Webinar - February 13, 2026 (11AM) *Today!*

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Technology Information

- All students 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: Follow the task cards that include science and writing, as science and writing are required to be administered.

PreACT Secure (grade 10) and PreACT 9 Secure (grade 9): **English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science**
Note: Follow the task cards that include science, as science is required to be administered.

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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/Item Count for All Assessments

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

ACT with Writing Authorized Timing	Test 1—English 50 Items	Test 2—Mathematics 45 Items	Test 3—Reading 36 Items	Test 4—Science 40 Items	Writing Test 1 Item
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

Refer to the Schedule Flexibility Policy for additional administration considerations. *Questions? Contact ACT @ 855-730-0400.*

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Timing/Item Count for All Assessments

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

PreACT Secure Content Area Test Timing Chart	Test 1—English 48 Items	Test 2—Mathematics 36 Items	Test 3—Reading 33 Items	Test 4—Science 36 Items
Standard time, multiple days; or standard time, breaks as needed, single day 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 Content Area Test Timing Chart	Test 1—English 44 Items	Test 2—Mathematics 34 Items	Test 3—Reading 33 Items	Test 4—Science 32 Items
Standard time, multiple days; or standard time, breaks as needed, single day 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

Refer to the
Schedule Flexibility Policy
for additional
administration
considerations.

Questions?
Contact ACT
@ 855-730-0400.

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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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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: 02/13/2026 (after 4pm)
  - Details about student transmissions into ACT Now
  - Pre-ID report access
  - Contact Information for further assistance
- **Page 3 topics:**
  - Non-College Reportable scores

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. Students testing over multiple days must start and complete testing in the same Test Event.
*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

Note: Students testing over multiple days must start and complete testing in the same Test Event.

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

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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 (Today!)

- 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**.
- ==**You must confirm participation to see students!**==
- Participation status of each school will be updated weekly [here](#).

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**"

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**"

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.

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)
  - 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:
    Test Event #1 Deadline was 02/11/26
    Test Event #2 Deadline is 02/25/26
    Test Event #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)

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.
- Visit **Step 1: Pre-Administration** on the ACT-hosted web page for additional ACT with Writing resources for students and testing staff.

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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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

Webinar Dates/Times

Webinar Date	Webinar Time
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

Assessment Contact Information

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

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Thank You

Next Webinar:
February 20, 2026
10-11 am

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