



Illinois Standards Achievement Test

Guide to the 2 • 0 • 0 • 0 Illinois State Assessment

Science and Social Science

Illinois State Board of Education • Division of Assessment
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman • Glenn W. McGee, State Superintendent

In February 2000, students in grades 3, 5, 8, and 10 took Illinois Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT) in reading, mathematics, and writing. Students in grades 4 and 7 took ISAT tests in science and social science. Grade 4 and 7 students also participated in statewide studies in fine arts and physical development and health.

ISAT measures the extent to which students are meeting the Illinois Learning Standards (1997). Illinois teachers and curriculum experts developed the ISAT tests in cooperation with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Schools and districts receive a summary report and student roster for each grade tested, Individual Student Reports for each student, and a student data disk for each school or district. No individual student results are reported for fine arts or physical development and health.

School/District Reports

The ISAT scales for science and social science range from 120 to 200.

A school or district receives one four-page ISAT report for each grade tested. The reports were designed so that a single format can encompass all ISAT areas tested.

Page 1 of the ISAT school/district report ("Performance Profile") presents the percent of students in each of four performance levels relative to the Illinois Learning Standards. Separate percents are shown for all students, for students with IEPs, and for students without IEPs. The four performance levels are defined in Table 1. The numeric cutoff scores are presented in Table 4 at the end of this document.

Page 2 ("Standards Analysis") shows the percent of test items answered correctly for sets of standards within each learning area. These standard sets are defined in Table 2. The data reported on this page are for all students.

Page 3 ("National Quarter Comparisons") shows how students scored relative to national norms.¹ Again, the data reported on this page are for all students.

The last page of the report ("Participation Summary") provides a statistical summary of student participation in the test program. Table 3

defines terms used in the Participation Summary table. Most of the numbers in the table are taken directly from information that school personnel code on the School ID sheets that accompany each set of answer documents. Coding errors on that form may lead to significant distortion of the information reported in the Participation Summary table.

Finally, superintendents receive a "District Summary," which is a roster by grade of the results of all schools in the district.

Table 1
ISAT Performance Level Descriptions

Exceeds Standards: Students' work is outstanding and shows comprehensive knowledge and skills in the learning area. Students can consistently use their knowledge and skills to solve problems and evaluate the results.
Meets Standards: Students' work shows that they have the knowledge and skills in the learning area. Students can consistently use and apply their knowledge and skills to solve problems.
Below Standards: Students' work shows basic knowledge and skills in the learning area. However, students have some gaps in their learning and can apply it only in limited ways.
Academic Warning: Students' work shows an inconsistent command of the basic knowledge and skills. Students have major gaps in their knowledge and skills and little ability to apply them. They may have serious errors or misunderstanding.

¹ In order to provide national comparison data, samples of Illinois students took the ISAT tests and the Stanford Achievement Test, 9th Edition, a nationally normed test. Equating studies between scores on the two tests provided a basis for identifying points on the ISAT scales that split a national sample of students into equal quarters.

Table 2

Definitions of Standards Sets Reported in School/District and Individual Student Reports

Science

Scientific Inquiry: Understanding and applying knowledge of experimental and technological design, including data analysis, use of scientific instruments, and the metric system. (Standards 11A, 11B)

Life Sciences: Understanding and applying knowledge of biology and ecology. (Standards 12A, 12B)

Physical Sciences: Understanding and applying knowledge of chemistry and physics. (Standards 12C, 12D)

Earth and Space Sciences: Understanding and applying knowledge of geology, weather, renewable resources, astronomy, and space science. (Standards 12E, 12F)

Science, Technology, and Society: Understanding and applying knowledge of safety, valid sources of data, and ethical practices. Understanding and applying knowledge of the history and sociology of science, ethics, environmental issues, and recycling. (Standards 13A, 13B)

Social Science

Government: Understanding and applying knowledge of political systems, including the basic principles and traditions of the U.S. government, the structure and functions of government, the election process, and foreign policy. (Standards 14A, 14B, 14D, 14F, 18B)

Economics: Understanding and applying knowledge of economic systems and the nature of the U.S. economy, including the choices people make in the production and distribution of goods and services and the relationship of governments to trade and economic practices. (Standards 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 15E)

Geography: Demonstrating the ability to locate places, regions, and features; to understand characteristics of Earth's physical system and the relationship between geographic factors and society; and to understand the historical significance of geography. (Standards 17A, 17B, 17C, 17D)

United States History: Understanding and analyzing the development of political events, economic systems, and social systems. (Standards 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 16E, 18A, 18B, 18C)

Global Perspectives: Understanding and applying knowledge of the political, economic, historical, social, and environmental events and conditions in the world beyond the United States. (Standards 14B, 14E, 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 16E, 18A, 18B, 18C)

Table 3
Glossary of Terms Used on the Participation
Summary Page of School/District Reports

Enrolled: The larger of the following two numbers is reported:

"Total Enrollment as of January 31, 2000," which is coded on the School ID Sheet that accompanies each set of answer sheets

or

the number of answer documents received for scoring plus the number of IEP students not tested (from the School ID Sheet) plus the number of LEP students not tested (from the School ID Sheet).

Tested: The number of answer documents for students who passed the attemptedness criterion.^a

% **Tested:** "Tested" divided by "Enrolled."

IEP Not Tested: The number of students who have an IEP that exempts them from an ISAT test (from the School ID Sheet).

LEP Not Tested: The number of students in TBE/TPI programs for less than three years who did not take any ISAT test (from the School ID Sheet).

Unscored: The number of students who took the test but failed the attemptedness criterion and did not receive a score. Students who do not pass the attemptedness criterion receive an "NA" (not available) on the Individual Student Report.

Absent: "Enrolled" minus "Tested" minus "IEP Not Tested" minus "LEP Not Tested" minus "Unscored."

^a Attemptedness criterion: Students must complete a specified amount of the test in order for the score to be reported.

Note: IEP = Individualized Education Program; LEP = Limited English Proficient; TBE = Transitional Bilingual Education; TPI = Transitional Program of Instruction.

and weaknesses in the areas tested. The reports also compare each student's achievement to other students in the school, district, and state. The Parent/Guardian Guide ("Understanding Your Child's ISAT Scores") that accompanies the Individual Student Reports describes all elements of the reports.

Some blanks may appear in individual student reports. If any section of the report contains an "NA," it means that these ISAT scores are not available. This could occur, for example, because of student absences during testing.

2000 Statewide Results (All Students)

School/District Reports present statewide results for comparative purposes. This section provides statewide results that may be useful in interpreting the reports. It also provides a table of score ranges that are used to define the student performance levels.

The first series of ISAT charts shows student performance statewide relative to the learning standards. The School/District Reports present this information separately by grade. These charts simultaneously show all grades assessed within a learning area for comparative purposes.

The second series of ISAT charts for science and social science shows the breakdown by national quarters. In 2000 a representative group of students at grades 4 and 7 took both ISAT and a standardized achievement test that was nationally normed in 1995. Statistical links between these two sets of scores allow national quarters data to be estimated for all tested students at each grade.

Table 4 shows the scale scores used to define each of the ISAT student performance levels. These cutoff scores do not change annually although the percent of students who fall at each level may shift from year to year.

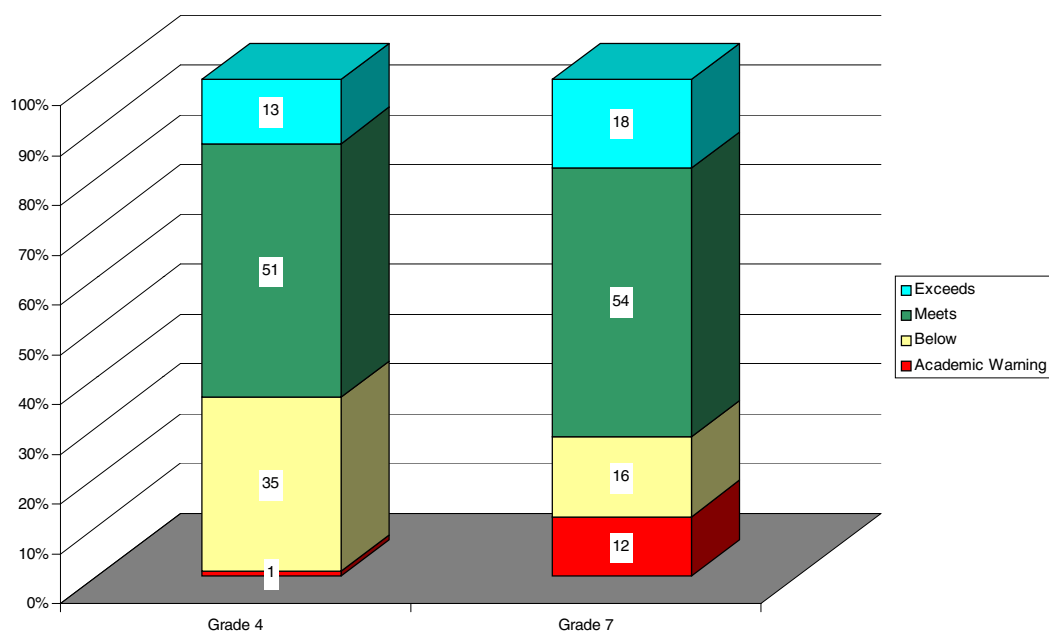
Table 4 shows ranges for each learning area on its respective scale. In science, for example, a grade 4 student must obtain a scale score of 154 or higher to meet standards and a scale score of 179 or higher to exceed standards. Table 5 shows the percent of students at each of these performance levels.

Individual Student Reports

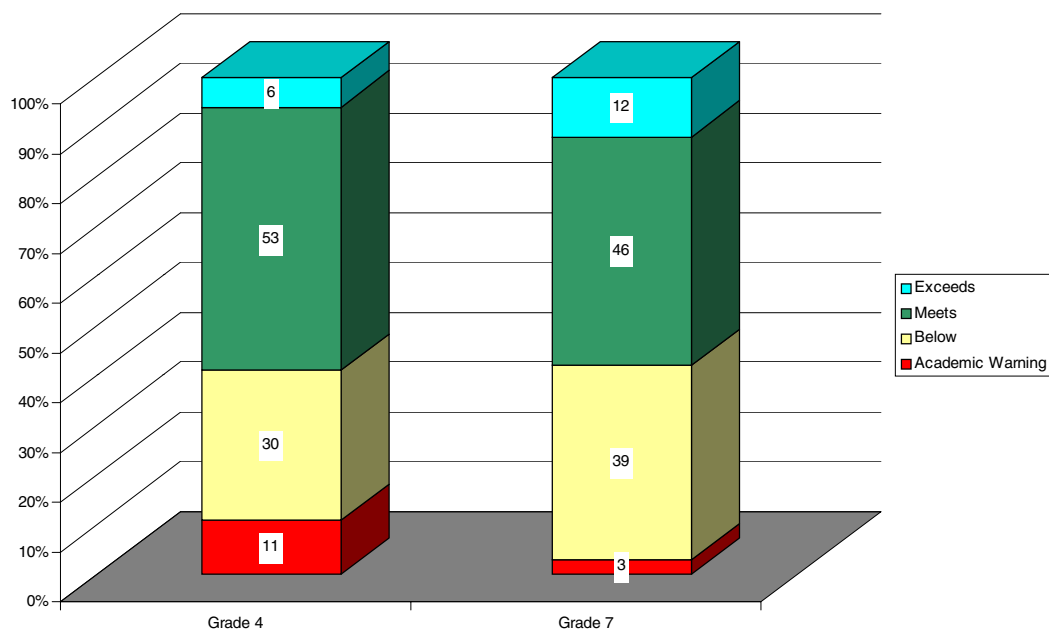
Individual Student Reports help teachers and parent/guardians understand students' strengths

ISAT: Percent of Students in Each Performance Level (All Students)

Science

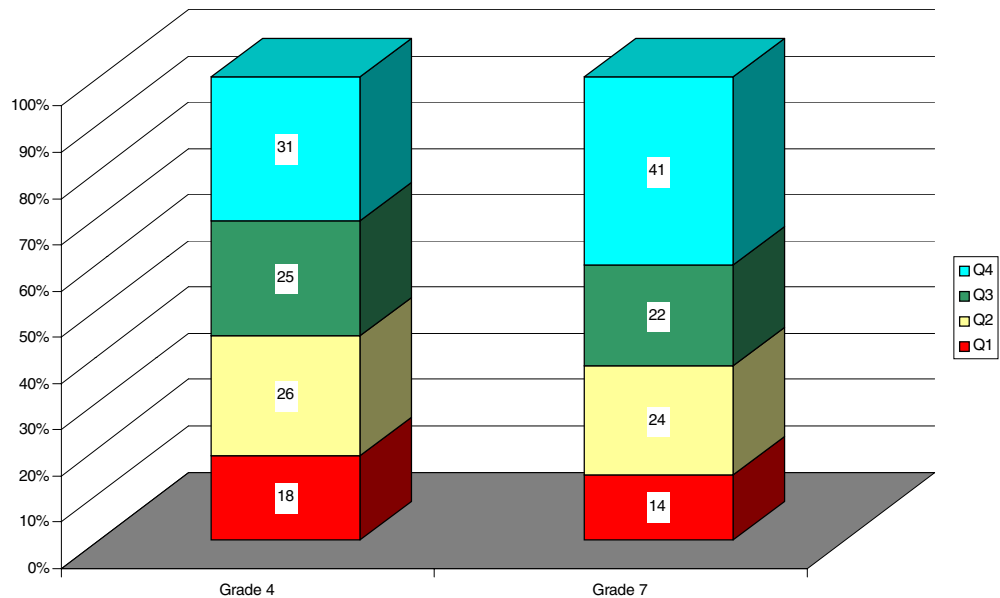


Social Science



ISAT: Percent of Students in Each National Quarter (All Students)

Science National Quarters



Social Science National Quarters

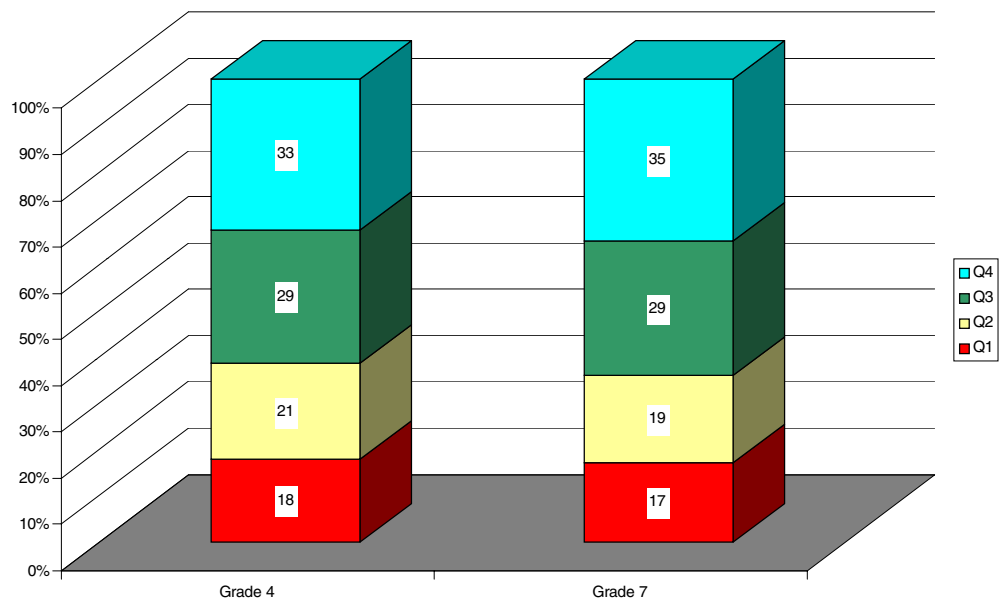


Table 4
Scale Score Ranges That Define ISAT Student Performance Levels

Grade	Academic Warning	Below Standards	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards
SCIENCE				
04	120-129	130-153	154-178	179-200
07	120-141	142-150	151-174	175-200
SOCIAL SCIENCE				
04	120-141	142-156	157-183	184-200
07	120-132	133-156	157-178	179-200

Table 5
Percent of Students Falling Into Each ISAT Performance Level

Grade	Academic Warning	Below Stan- dards	Meets Stan- dards	Exceeds Standards
	2000	2000	2000	2000
SCIENCE				
04	1	35	51	13
07	12	16	54	18
SOCIAL SCIENCE				
04	11	30	53	6
07	3	39	46	12