

ISBE Student Assessment Science Overview for 2014

ISAT Science

The 2014 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) will be given March 3-March 14, 2014. The science portion is given at grades four and seven. There are 82 multiple-choice items, given in two 45-minute sessions, at each tested grade.

All items appearing on the science portion of the ISAT align to the Illinois Assessment Framework (IAF) which can be found at: <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/IAFIndex.htm>.

Pearson is the contractor for the ISAT, Linguistically Modified (LM) ISAT and the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA). Pearson staff members work with ISBE and Illinois educators to develop the test items.

Preliminary scores from the 2014 ISAT are scheduled to be available online to district superintendents by June 1, 2014. The science scores reflect achievement in the following standards: 11A and 11B, 12A and 12B, 12C and 12D, 12E and 12F, 13A and 13B. Seventy-five items are used to determine ISAT science scores while seven items are field test items and are not used for scoring purposes.

National Percentile Rankings (NPR's) will no longer be available for any portion of the ISAT. The Stanford-10 portion (SAT-10) of the ISAT that was used to determine these scores has been replaced using Illinois developed science items.

PSAE Science

The 2014 Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) will be given April 23-24, 2014, to all eligible* grade 11 students. The make-up session will be given May 7-8, 2014. Students testing with accommodations have a two-week window to complete all PSAE component tests. The Day 1 component of PSAE science is the ACT Science test, and Day 2 is the Illinois-Developed Science test. The ACT Science test contains 40 multiple-choice items, given in 35 minutes. The ISBE-Developed Science test contains 45 multiple-choice items, given in 40 minutes. The results of each component are combined to create the PSAE Science score.

The ACT Science test includes many items that require students to use science inquiry (Standard 11A) skills and strategies. Sample items can be found at <http://media.act.org/documents/preparing.pdf>. Sample items for the Illinois-Developed Science test, which aligns to Standards 11B, 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, 12E, 12F, 13A and 13B, can be found at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2014/psae/psae-prep-guide14.pdf>.

The process for developing test items for the Illinois-Developed Science component of the PSAE is the same as described for the ISAT. Illinois educators write and review the items that appear on the test.

IAA Science

Students for whom ISAT and PSAE is not appropriate, even with accommodations, take the Illinois Alternate Assessment. Please see <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/iaa.htm> for more information. Please contact Jessica Dare in the Assessment Division at 1-866-6034 for questions regarding the IAA.

Questions regarding the science portion of the ISAT or the PSAE should be directed to Bridina Lemmer in the Assessment Division at 1-866-317-6034.