

Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)

What does the ISA assess?

In the Spring of 2016, the Illinois State Board of Education began administering the ISA as a means of assessing student progress in regard to the Illinois Learning Standards in Science. The assessment also satisfies federal accountability requirements.

What is the design of ISA?

The design of the ISA requires students to not only demonstrate content knowledge but to also apply their knowledge by supporting their answers with evidence and reasoning. This is highly reflective of the progressive practices of District 36.

Who takes ISA?

All students enrolled in Grades 5 and 8. The ISA is also administered to High School Biology students.

How many tests will my child take?

Students will take a total of 3 tests. It is an untimed test and the average student time-on-task is estimated at 120 minutes.

When will ISA be administered?

School Districts can determine their testing dates during March and April.

How is ISA administered?

ISA is administered online, with the majority of students using their iPads. Other devices will be provided if needed. The test will be administered in the classrooms.

How do schools and teachers use ISA scores?

The results provide administrators with important data to help make broad curriculum decisions at the school and district levels. However, classroom educators will not use the results to make teaching adjustments year-to-year for individual students.

How does the District prepare students for the ISA test?

District curriculum delivers the skills and content students need to be successful. Students receive meaningful, experiential instruction in science beginning in Kindergarten. Creating a comfortable testing environment is a priority during testing events. Teachers will incorporate time to provide instructions, demonstrate how to navigate the technology associated with the test, and answer student questions.

If my child has an IEP or 504 Plan, will he or she receive accommodations?

Yes. Children who have IEPs and 504 Plans will receive the accommodations that are currently specified in their plans.

What if my child becomes frustrated while taking the ISA?

The emotional well-being of our students is always the primary concern of District teachers. You will be contacted if something unexpected occurs during test administration.

When will I receive information from the district regarding my child's performance?

District 36 will send home Student Reports to families shortly after receiving them from the State. The ISA reports are issued during the fall of the following school year.