

Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)

Spring 2020 Test Details

1. Who must test?
 - a. All students in grades 5, 8, and 11 must participate in ISA except those who participate in the DLM-AA.
 - b. Illinois has transitioned from a Biology I course-based assessment to a general science assessment administered to students in grade 11. Therefore, all students in grade 11 must participate in ISA, regardless of any previous participation in a Biology I course-based ISA.
2. When will the ISA be administered?
 - a. March 2, 2020, through April 30, 2020
 - b. Schools must identify their test administration window(s) through ISBE Teach, ISBE Management after the system opens in February. The 2020 guide will be posted in February. The 2019 Systems User Guide provides details and is still available at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISA-Systems-User-Guide.pdf>.
 - c. A school may have multiple test windows so long as a single grade tests in a single window (Example: March 2-6 5th grade window / April 26-30 8th grade window)
3. What is the format of the ISA?
 - a. The ISA is an online assessment.
 - b. Accommodations details for the ISA
<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISA-Accommodations-Accessibility-Features.pdf>
 - c. If any student requires a paper format as an accommodation, please contact ISBE.
John Hicks - ISA Contact at jhicks@isbe.net or 866-317-6034.
4. What content is assessed in the ISA?
 - a. Illinois Learning Standards for Science incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Science.aspx>
 - b. In grades 5, 8, and 11, the ISA is a comprehensive exam that includes life, physical, Earth and space sciences with engineering and technological design features imbedded in the other science domains.
 - c. Science and Engineering Practices (SEP) is a second focus of the ISA. The 8 SEP's will be equally represented throughout the ISA as allowed by the strength of the item bank.
5. How are ISA test sessions designed?
 - a. Each grade level has three test sessions.
 - i. The estimated student time on task per session is 40 minutes.
 - ii. The estimated administration time before each session is 10-15 minutes.
 - b. Scheduling of sessions
 - i. Test sessions are not timed.
 - ii. Students may continue to work past the estimated 40 minutes, so long as they do not leave the test session.
 - iii. Testing within a session must be completed in one day, even for students testing with accommodations.
 - iv. All three sessions may be given in one day.
 - v. Test administration must be scheduled for a combination of consecutive school days.
 - vi. Test sessions must be continuous once started, but an individual student taking the exam does not have to test on consecutive days or take test sessions in consecutive order (examples below)

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Below are some possible examples for school testing schedules.

These are **not** the only accepted test schedules, only examples of possible test schedules.

There are 3 test sessions total for each grade level.

Example School Schedule #1: 3 consecutive test sessions over 3 days

Monday: Session #1	All students
Tuesday: Session #2	All students
Wednesday: Session #3	All students

Example School Schedule #2: All 3 test sessions on same day; breaks can be taken between test sessions

Monday: Session #1, Session #2, Session #3	All students
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Example School Schedule #3: Split sections of students

Monday: Session #1	First ½ of students take exam
Tuesday: Session #1	Second ½ of students take exam
Wednesday: Session #2	First ½ students take exam
Thursday: Session #2	Second ½ of students take exam
Friday: Session #3	All students finish exam

Example School Schedule #4: 5 class sections /3 class sections tested each day

Monday: Session #1	Class sections 1,2,3 take exam session #1
Tuesday: Session #1 & Session #2	Class sections 4,5 take session #1 Class section 1 take session #2
Wednesday: Session #2	Class sections 2,3,4 take session #2
Thursday: Session #2 & Session #3	Class section 5 take session #2 Class sections 1,2 take session #3
Friday: Session #3	Class sections 3,4,5 take session #3

Example School Schedule #5: Testing over multiple weeks w/ multiple class sections

Week #1

Monday: Session #1	Class sections 1,2,3,4,5
Tuesday: Session #1	Class sections 6,7,8,9,10
Wednesday: Session #1	Class sections 11,12,13,14,15
Thursday: Session #2	Class sections 1,2,3,4,5
Friday: Session #2	Class sections 6,7,8,9,10

Week #2

Monday: Session #2	Class sections 11,12,13,14,15
Tuesday: Session #3	Class sections 1,2,3,4,5
Wednesday: Session #3	Class sections 6,7,8,9,10
Thursday: Session #3	Class sections 11,12,13,14,15
Friday: Session #1, #2, #3	make up for absent students

More Questions? Contact John Hicks, ISA Contact at jhicks@isbe.net or 866-317-6034.