Appendix C: Illinois Assessment of Readiness and Illinois Science Assessment for Students with Visual Impairment, Including Blindness

Purpose of this Guidance

The IAR/ISA are provided online, in regular print, large print and braille. This document is for Test Coordinators, Test Proctors, test transcribers and teachers to clarify issues and potential questions for students with visual impairments, including blindness. Students with visual impairments who receive instructional and assessment accommodations, and those professionals that work with them, will need to plan ahead for testing to ensure that students have all necessary tools and materials available to complete assessment tasks. All accommodations must be documented in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), Individual Service Plan (ISP), or 504 plan.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Who is an Eligible Test Proctor?

In general, the following individuals may serve as a Test Proctor:
- Individuals employed by the District as teachers
- District and school-level administrators
- Other certified educational professionals

❖ Refer to Appendix B: State Policy Addendum in the *Test Coordinator Manual* for Test Proctor qualifications for ISBE. Eligible Test Proctors and test support staff must attend training and follow test procedures and protocol.

2. What is included in the braille/large print versions of the tests? What additional materials do I need?

Large print and braille versions of the tests are used by students who have this presentation format identified in their IEPs or 504 plans for instruction and assessment. Additional materials needed must be documented in the student's IEP or 504 plan, except for the following items:

- Pencils
- Highlighter
- Graph paper
- Calculator
  - Use of a grade-level appropriate calculator is available to all students during designated portions of the mathematics or science assessment.
  - Students who have calculators identified as a needed accommodation in an IEP, ISP, or 504 plan may use the calculator on all portions of the mathematics or science assessment.
  - The calculator currently available in TestNav is not accessible with screen readers. Students who use a screen reader should use calculators they use during instructional activities as long as it meets the calculator policy.
  - Refer to the Calculator Policy for specific information on grade-level appropriate calculators.

3. What if a student requires a combination of Human Reader, braille, and large print (i.e., dual or multi-media)?

The District or School may order both a braille and large print book.

4. What special issues exist regarding the use of optical or electronic magnification of the test?

Electronic magnification systems enlarge print materials in black/white or color combinations. Magnification for viewing text and graphics can be increased up to 800% with option for changing font colors, background colors, using a line marker, etc. They come in a variety of models – desktop or handheld, near or distance, stand alone or connected to a computer. Electronic magnification systems provide students with access to all printed materials, and the size of the print can be customized for the task. Students who require magnification by using an electronic magnification system can use a regular paper-based test book.

If the electronic magnification system used by the students as the ability to capture images, these images must be deleted at the end of the test session.

Graphics enlarged on an electronic magnification system may be problematic for some students with low vision. When an image is magnified, the student may not be able to see the whole graphic at once. If the student has difficulty with graphics, a large print test should be ordered. Large print is the regular print book enlarged to 150% which is equivalent to 18 point font size.

5. What special issues should be considered regarding students with a visual impairment, including blindness who may take the online test?

For any student taking the online test, it will be delivered using TestNav. Any student with a visual impairment including blindness who can take an online test should be assigned the Online Accommodated Form – AT/Screen Reader test form.

Screen Readers

A screen reader is a software application, separate from Text-to-Speech embedded in TestNav, which conveys web content through audio. Screen readers are appropriate for students who are experienced with using the software, including those who are blind or have a visual impairment. Pearson has gone to great lengths to ensure that the TestNav system is accessible to all students. Students who take the IAR/ISA online using a screen reader must be able to independently navigate the online testing environment. Professionals who work with students who are screen reader users are encouraged to work with students during instructional activities to ensure that they have independent computer-access skills. The skills used to navigate the IAR/ISA are the same needed to access a variety of internet resources, including the ability to navigate by regions and headings and the ability to use keyboard shortcuts and lists, such as link lists.

As with all students taking an IAR/ISA, students with a visual impairment, including blindness are encouraged to use the practice tests which include screen reader, large print or access to Braille Ready Files (.brf) to download a braille practice test. Practice Tests and Sample Items are currently posted on the Practice Items tab of the Illinois Support Site at https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/.

Refreshable Braille Display

Students who use a screen reader can also access the English language arts/literacy (ELA/L) assessments using a refreshable braille display. Students who choose to take advantage of refreshable braille during the IAR/ISA should be comfortable and independent with using a refreshable braille display in instructional activities prior to using one in an assessment environment. As stated above, students and professionals are encouraged to use the Practice Tests in order to become familiar and comfortable with the Computer-Based Assessments.

Screen Enlargement

The online IAR/ISA come with a built-in Zoom feature in the TestNav tool bar to zoom the testing screen by up to 250%.

The online IAR/ISA come with a built-in magnifier that can be used by all students at any time during the assessment period. This magnifier is intended to enlarge small areas of the screen so that a student can get a closer look at a visual image such as a picture or graphic.

Color Contrast

The TestNav system provides a built-in method for changing the color contrast settings and is available to all students. Currently, the available choices are Black on Cream, Black on Light Blue, Black on Light Magenta, White on Black, Light Blue on Dark Blue or Gray on Green.

Braillers and Braille Note-takers

Students who are accustomed to using a brailler, slate and stylus or a braille note-taker to produce work during instructional activities will be able to do so with the online test. In these cases, the student will produce their answers and transcribe them into TestNav or have them transcribed into the TestNav.

Who can transcribe the tests?

Only an Eligible Test Proctor who is a certified Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment, including Blindness or someone working under the direct supervision of an Eligible Test Proctor who is a certified Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment, including Blindness may transcribe the student's responses into the test booklet, answer document or online form of the IAR/ISA.

Answers written on braille paper must be transcribed onto the standard-size paper form of the IAR/ISA or into TestNav. If responses are written on an electronic braille note-taker, they should be printed and transcribed into a standard-size paper test booklet, answer document or into TestNav. The file in the electronic braille note-taker must be deleted following successful transcription of the student's responses. **Note:** A student response can be embossed for their reviews, after which copies must be securely shred after transcription.

Print

Any Illinois Assessment of Readiness or Illinois Science Assessment paper-based accommodation which requires materials to be shipped will need to be ordered from the Orders tab of the Illinois Administration Platform. The window for ordering materials opens two-three weeks before the testing window begins.

Technology Skills Checklist

Accessibility of testing materials for all students is an important part of the IAR/ISA. For a student with visual impairment, including blindness to take the online test, he or she will need to have a minimum level of skills with computer technology and the assistive technology he or she uses to access instructional materials. The following is a list of skills a student should be using regularly during instructional activities and be proficient with on the day of testing in order to independently access the IAR/ISA online. Students should, at a minimum, be able to complete these tasks independently and should be given multiple opportunities to practice using the Practice Tests and the Sample Items available at https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/ and by participating in an Infrastructure Trial.

Device	Functions
Screen Reader	Use arrow keys to navigate, Navigate by headings, Access and use the Headings List, Access and use the Links List, Activate Links using keyboard commands, Activate Buttons, Adjust voice settings, Select text using keyboard commands, Copy text to clipboard, Paste text from clipboard, Access edit fields, Use check boxes, Use radio buttons, Enter and exit forms mode, Navigate, locate and read text on a webpage, Navigate and understand a table
Refreshable Braille Display	Complete all of the functions listed under Screen Reader, Use corresponding commands to run a screen reader with a supported refreshable braille display
Screen Magnification	Adjust color and contrast settings, Adjust magnification settings, Use Text-to-Speech when needed, Use find features to efficiently find information