Illinois Assessment of Readiness Spring 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

POLICY

What code should be used for remote students who do not test?

- Remote students who do not test should be removed from the testing session and then the RNVTA code 10 should be used in SIS.

Will template letters to parents of remote students be provided explaining that the state is requiring students report to school for testing? And, do we need to keep track of refusals to take the test?

- Yes, a parent letter template is being reviewed for approval explaining the current circumstances and will soon be released. ISBE is not requiring that a tracking system be submitted.

If there is no waiver granted, will the test count against the school/district due to COVID and remote learning?

- ISBE will follow the guidance provided by the U. S. Department of Education. At this time, no further information about accountability has been provided.

GENERAL

When is the Spring 2021 IAR testing window?

- The testing window for paper testing is March 15 - April 30, 2021
- The testing window for online testing is March 15 - May 14, 2021

What are the dates to order paper materials?

- Students that were registered in PAN as taking a paper format test or paper related accommodation by February 5, will receive an initial paper shipment that is due in districts no later than March 1. Additional orders for paper materials can be placed beginning March 1.

Can test sessions be uploaded to SIS?

- Test sessions are no longer loaded in SIS. Sessions can be created, and students added either manually within PearsonAccess[next] or via the Student Registration/Personal Needs Profile (SR/PNP) file import.

Where do we enter our test window in SIS?

- To set IAR test window in SIS, choose "Assessment Pre-ID" then "IAR" then "Step 1" and follow prompts. (NOTE: This only applies to public schools, not Invest in Kids private schools.)

ACCOMMODATIONS

For students with accommodations will the supplies be ordered automatically once the accommodations are uploaded, or will we have to order them in PearsonAccess[next] separately?

- Student accommodations requiring paper materials that were entered in PearsonAccess[next] by February 5, will receive materials in the initial order due in districts by March 1. Any accommodations that were imported or entered manually in PearsonAccess[next] after February 5, will require an additional order to receive materials. The additional orders window opens on March 1.

Are there any online accommodations that require paper materials?

- The only online accommodation that has paper material are the Refreshable Braille and Math Human Reader accommodations. If this accommodation was in PearsonAccess[next] by February 5, you will receive scripts with the initial order due in district on March 1. If the accommodation was not in by February 5, you will need to place an additional order for Math Human Reader scripts. The additional orders window opens on March 1.

When do accommodations need to be imported into PearsonAccess[next] by for online testing?

- Online accommodations need to be entered prior to preparing the test session. The exception is the Refreshable Braille and Human Reader accommodation for online math, as these accommodations require paper materials.

Will accommodations be imported from SIS?

- No, accommodations are no longer being synced through SIS. They need to be imported or entered in PearsonAccess[next] directly.

Are there any new accommodations for Spring 2021?

- No, there are no new accommodations for Spring 2021.

If a student has accommodations in PearsonAccess[next] and a file is uploaded and their data is not filled in on the file, will it overwrite or delete the info in PearsonAccess[next]?

- Yes, if the import file is blank in fields that are in PearsonAccess[next], it will overwrite. We recommend starting with a student registration export.

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FIELD TESTS

Will all students taking the online test have to take an additional ELA unit, even if their school was not selected for the field test?

- All students not selected for the field test will take a shorter, 3rd session. It is approximately 20 minutes long.

Is this shorter unit part of the final score for students?

- The shorter, ELA 3rd session will not be used in the calculation of the student score. For additional information, please refer to the ISBE IAR site.

I have sessions created and do not see the 3rd ELA unit. Will that be added later?

- The 3rd unit will show up once in PearsonAccess^next around the 3rd week of February.

TECHNOLOGY

When will proctor cache be available?

- March 8, 2021

Is Chrome OS 88 supported on Chromebook?

- Yes, Chrome OS 88 is supported.

If we previously have TestNav installed on Chromebooks via the Admin Console, do we need to install a new version or will it automatically update from last year?

- It will automatically update on Chrome OS.

How many students can connect to the proctor cache server?

- This depends on network speed, NIC card on caching machine, hardware (or virtual) specs of the caching machine.
- For additional questions or support around proctor caching, an appointment with a Pearson Field Engineer can be made. Pearson Field Engineer Calendar

When do the nightly API feeds end?

- Nightly feeds will go through the testing window. The nightly feed does not include accommodation information - only core student demographic data.

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HELPFUL LINKS

ISBE IAR site   Pearson IL Support Site

IAR Spring 2021 Manuals   Invest in Kids Act Resources

TestNav 8 Online Support   PearsonAccessnext Online Support

IAR Unit Testing Times   User Role Matrix

Starting Test Sessions   Stopping Test Sessions