

Local Accommodations Removed for Spring 2026 Illinois Assessment of Readiness and Illinois Science Assessment

In the past, the Illinois State Board of Education required districts and schools to retain certain records within Pearson's testing platform. As ISBE seeks to enhance testing processes, it has determined that eliminating **all** locally provided accommodations from the testing platform will lessen the administrative burden for District and School Testing Coordinators.

The AF&A Manual is currently under construction to update this change. A Fourteenth Edition will be published to the Illinois Support Site in early January.

To compare last year's collected fields with those for Spring 2026, download the Spring 2025-2026 Accommodations Upload Template Crosswalk from the Training tab on the Illinois Support Site: <https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/training/>.

Districts and schools can offer various Illinois Assessment of Readiness and Illinois Science Assessment testing accommodations locally. They must document all accommodations for each student and keep these records for three years.

The Illinois State Board of Education provides a comprehensive list of accommodations that can be provided locally and procedures for administering these local accommodations in the Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual – Thirteenth Edition, which can be downloaded from the Illinois Support Site at https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/resources/training-resources/IL1153564_IL_AF&A_Sp25_WEBTAG.pdf.

The following accommodations and considerations were removed from the testing platform for the Spring 2026 season, but are still expected to be documented and maintained at the local level.

- **Amplification:** students using specialized auditory aids to test (white noise maker, FM system)
- **Answers Recorded in Test Book:** students taking a paper test answer in test book. Proctor must transcribe into answer document
- **Braille Writer/Refreshable Braille Device:** device blind students use for reading and writing

- **Calculation Device or Math Tool:** using a tool other than a calculator to compute, e.g., abacus
- **Cover Overlays:** students using Cover Overlays on paper tests
- **Directions in Native Language:** providing student testing directions in student's native language (ISBE supports schools locally by providing translated scripts that can be accessed on the Illinois Support Site)
- **Emergency Accommodation:** accommodations for students provided on an emergency basis, e.g, student breaks an arm and needs a scribe
- **Extended Time:** student needs additional time beyond prescribed testing time to complete test
- **Frequent Breaks:** student needs frequent breaks but testing time does not change
- **Handheld Calculator:** students using a handheld calculator while taking an online test
- **Human Scribe:** Proctor transcribes answers into answer document or into Testnav for student
- **Paper Human Read Aloud:** proctor reads paper test aloud to student
- **Separate Alternate Location:** student needs to test in an alternate location
- **Small Group Setting:** student needs to test in a small group
- **Student Reads Assessment Aloud to Self:** student reads test aloud and will need to test separately from other students
- **Unique Accommodation:** an accommodation unlisted in the AF&A that requires permission from ISBE to administer
- **Word-to-Word Dictionary:** English language support dictionary