Section 2: Overview of the Standard Computer-Based Assessment: Universal Tools, Accessibility Features, and Administrative Considerations for Computer-Based Testing

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness and the Illinois Science Assessment are computer-based tests that offer students a wide range of universal tools and accessibility features during testing. The Illinois State Board of Education works with its partners to provide the latest technology to as many students as possible on statewide assessments. Below is a discussion of the various tools and features currently available to students taking an IAR or ISA test and a set of administrative considerations that are available to Principals and Test Coordinators for arranging testing locations for all student testers.

Review the available testing tools and features, as students with IEPs, 504 Plans, or English Learner status may already receive sufficient support from the standard IAR or ISA computer-based test without additional accommodations.

- As an example, a student with an IEP requiring the student to receive text-to-speech support on statewide assessments may qualify to take the standard IAR math test and ISA without additional platform accommodations.

2.1 List of Universal Tools and Accessibility Features for Computer-Based Testing (Formerly Table 1)

Students receive the following testing tools and features while taking an Illinois Assessment of Readiness or Illinois Science Assessment test.

Universal tools listed in Table 1 are embedded in subject and grade-specific IAR or ISA computer-based tests.

The (L) indicates tools or features Test Coordinators and Test Proctors provide locally to students taking an IAR or ISA test.

❖ Refer to the **Glossary of Terms** for additional tool and feature descriptions.

Table 1: Universal Tools and Accessibility Features on Standard Test Form

Universal Tool (L)=locally provided	Subject(s)	Description
Answer Eliminator	ALL	On multiple choice options, a student selects an answer, and a red X appears and "crosses out" the answer choice.
Answer Masking	ALL	When the student uses answer masking, multiple-choice and multiple select answers will be masked. The student will uncover answer options when ready.
Blank Scratch Paper (L)	ALL	Test Proctors must supply at least one page of blank scratch paper per student, per section for both computer-based and paper-based testing.
Bookmark	ALL	The student selects the "Bookmark" icon in the toolbar. The student electronically "bookmarks" items to review later.
Calculator – Four Function (Calc Sections)	Mathematics Grades 6 &7 and Science Grades 5 & 8	A student uses the embedded grade-level calculator on the **CALCULATOR SECTION** of the mathematics assessments.
Closed Captioning	ELA/L	Text embedded in multimedia (i.e., video) segments of the ELA/literacy summative assessments. Captioning can be turned on/off within the video player as needed.
Color Contrast	ALL	The student may change the color contrast option or disable this feature by selecting "Change the background and foreground color" in the user drop-down menu.
Exhibits (reference sheets)	Mathematics Grades 5-8 and Science Grade 8	Reference sheets are placed in the Exhibits window on the student's screen for them to access during testing.
General Test Directions Clarified (L)	ALL	The Test Proctor clarifies general administration directions only. No passages or test items may be clarified.
Glossary Pop-up	ALL	ISBE and Illinois educator-chosen words identified across IAR and ISA test forms that are defined for students in computer-based tests. Glossed words contain a link that can be accessed with a mouse click, a touchpad, or by keyboard.
Handheld calculator (if preferred) (L)	Mathematics and Science	Students using a handheld calculator in **CALCULATOR ONLY** sections while taking a paper or online test.
Headphones (L)	ALL	The student uses headphones or noise buffers to minimize distraction, access embedded Text-to-Speech, or filter external noise during testing.

Highlight Tool	ALL	The student electronically highlights text as needed to recall and/or emphasize.
Line Reader Mask	ALL	Students use this tool to cover parts of the computer screen and to help read line-by-line and mask portions of the testing screen.
Magnifier	ALL	Students use this tool to enlarge text and graphics on-screen via a magnification square (200%).
Notepad	ELA/L	Students use this universal tool to write notes using the embedded Notepad tool on the ELA/Literacy computer-based assessments.
Protractor	Mathematics Grades 6 & 7	Universal tool in the toolbar of the IAR mathematics Grades 6 and 7 computer-based tests.
Read Test to Self (L)	ALL	The student reads aloud the assessment to him or herself.
Read/Repeat General Test Directions (L)	ALL	The Test Proctor reads aloud the general administration directions only. A student may raise his or her hand and request directions to be repeated.
Redirect Students as Needed (L)	ALL	The Test Proctor redirects the student's attention to the test without coaching or assisting the student in any way.
Ruler	Mathematics	Rulers can be found in the toolbar across the top of the testing screen for computer-based tests.
Scientific Calculator (Calc Sections)	Mathematics Grade 8	Grade 8 mathematics computer-based testers are provided with a scientific calculator in the TestNav toolbar in allowable sections. Scientific calculators are provided locally for paper testers.
Spell Check	ELA/L and Science (constructed response)	The student uses the embedded spell check icon in TestNav to review their written text for errors in constructed response items on the ELA/L and science assessments.
Spell Check Device (if preferred) (L)	ELA/L and Science (constructed response)	A student uses an external spell check device. Device may not have embedded grammar check, connect to the internet, or save information.
Text-to-Speech (Math and Science)	Mathematics and Science	A machine generated voice that reads an IAR or ISA computer-based test in place of a human reading the test aloud to a student.

Writing Tools	ELA/L and Science (constructed response)	The student uses embedded writing process tools for written responses, including copy/paste, bold, italicize, underline, insert bullets, numbered list, undo, redo, and spell check. Writing tools are available in the constructed response items on both the ELA/L and science assessments.
Zoom	ALL	Students can turn on and off this tool and increase the screen size up to 500 percent.

IMPORTANT EXCEPTION: Students must have an IEP documenting reading support is required on the English Language Arts statewide assessment to receive the Text-to-Speech accommodation. Text-to-Speech is a universal feature for all Math and Science tests. Since the ELA/L test measures reading comprehension, this support is an accommodation and requires an IEP on the IAR assessment.

*** Spring 2026 Human Reader Support:** Table 1 of the Thirteenth Edition of the AF&A Manual describes human reader support for mathematics and science as an accessibility feature that needed to be selected in advance. Beginning in Spring 2026, text-to-speech (considered equivalent to human read aloud support) is now a universal tool on all math and science computer-based assessments. With this change, ISBE recommends Human Reader Support be assigned only to students whose IEP requires a human read state test assessments aloud to the student.

* **Spanish Paper Testing for Math and Science:** Table 1 of the Thirteenth Edition of the AF&A Manual describes the paper-based Spanish editions of the mathematics and science tests as accessibility features. Beginning in Spring 2026, all paper-based editions of IAR and ISA assessments are available only by accommodation and will require an IEP.

2.2 Student Readiness Tool – Computer Based Testing

The Student Readiness Tool (SRT), accessible via the Illinois Support Site under the Practice Test tab at https://srt.testnav.com/il/il-srt.html, provides guidance on the universal tools and accessibility features available for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness and Illinois Science Assessment computer-based tests.

The tool demonstrates how to navigate a student test, how to use basic online tools for answering questions, how to interact with question types, and describes additional Test Supports historically reserved for students with disabilities. While the Student Readiness Tool is a Pearson tool used to support multiple programs and is not specific to Illinois, it is useful to review.

Test Coordinators and Test Proctors should review the SRT for a better understanding of the computer-based features and item interactions available to students taking a computer-based assessment.

2.3 Computer-based Item Interactions on IAR and ISA

In addition to answering multiple-choice and multiple select items, students must sometimes move, highlight, or type their answers. This chart lists the technology-enhanced item interaction types that can be

found on an IAR or ISA assessment. Most of these interactions are demonstrated in the SRT or on practice tests. As you evaluate whether a standard computer-based test is appropriate for students with disabilities, review these technology-enhanced item types and schedule time for students to practice using the following item types in the SRT and on practice tests located on the Illinois Support site at https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-items/ to ensure that students are able to manipulate the item interactions with a mouse, touchpad, touchscreen, or a keyboard.

Table 2: IAR ELA/L Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response Item Types

Interaction Type	Description	Common Uses
Inline Choice	Students make a drop-down selection within a sentence or passage	Vocabulary or grammar tasks
Drag-and-drop	Students drag options into the correct positions	Sorting, sequencing, or labeling tasks
Drag-and-drop	Students place options into a table or graphic organizer to show relationships or complete data sets	Establish relationships
Match Table Grid	Students select one correct option per row	Matching evidence to claims
Hot Text/Text Highlight	Students highlight or click on text segments within a passage to select evidence supporting an answer	Part B of Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR) tasks
Order	Sequencing steps or events in a passage	Used sparingly if at all

Table 3: IAR Mathematics Technology-Enhanced Item Types (TEI)

Interaction Type	Description
Bar Graph	Students manipulate bars on a graph to represent data values. The bars can be dragged either vertically or horizontally, typically with snap-to increments to ensure precise placement.
Drawing Tool (Constructed Response, Human Scored)	Students use a drawing interface to show conceptual understanding or problem-solving steps. Humans score these.
Equation Editor	Allow students to enter equations, which may be blank or pre-filled. Supports follow-through scoring for multi-step responses.
Equation Editor / Numbers and Fractions	Accepts positive/negative numbers and fractions as responses.
Equation Editor / Numbers and Math Symbols	Accepts numbers and math symbols.

Equation Editor / Show Your Work	**Accepts numbers and math symbols, allowing students to demonstrate process and reasoning.**
Equation Editor / Show Your Work	**May include use of the drawing tool for in-depth, open-ended responses, scored by humans.**
Fraction Model	**Students interact with visual models to represent fractions or solve fraction-related problems.**
Drag-and-drop / Fill-in-the-blank	**Students drag text or numeric options into blanks within sentences or statements to complete them accurately.**
Drag-and-drop / Relationships	**Students drag options into table cells to indicate relationships or fill in missing data.**
Drag-and-drop / Labeling	**Students drag labels or objects onto designated areas ("bays") within images or diagrams, such as labeling parts of a system.**
Hot Spot	**Students click on specific regions within an image to identify correct areas (e.g., selecting parts of a diagram).**
Inline Choice	**Drop-down menus are embedded within text or questions, allowing students to select the correct option from a list.**
Match Table Grid (MTG)	**Students select one correct option per row in a grid or table, often used to match evidence to claims or sort data.**
Order	**Students sequence steps, values, or items; used sparingly.**
Point Graph	**Students plot points on a coordinate grid to model relationships or trends.**
Slider	**Students adjust a slider to select or represent a numerical value or parameter.**

Table 4: ISA Science Technology-Enhanced Item Types (TEI)

Interaction Type	Description
Bar Graph	**Students manipulate bars on a graph to represent data values. Bars can be dragged vertically or horizontally, typically with snap-to increments for precise placement.**
Point / Line Graph	**Available exclusively for Grade 8. Students plot points or draw line segments on a coordinate grid to model relationships or trends within the data.**
Drag-and-drop / Pairing	**Drag-and-drop interaction where students classify or pair items, such as matching terms to definitions or sorting items into categories.**

Drag-and-drop / Fill-in-the-blank	**Students drag text or numeric options into blanks within a sentence or statement to complete it accurately.**
Drag-and-drop / Relationships	**Presented in a tabular format, students drag options into specific cells to indicate relationships or fill in missing data.**
Drag-and-drop / Multiple-select table	**When multiple correct answers are required, replicating multi-select functionality presented as a table.**
Drag-and-drop / Labeling	**Students drag labels or objects into designated areas ("bays") on an image or diagram, such as labeling parts of a system.**
Hot Spot	**Students click on specific regions within an image to identify correct areas, such as selecting parts of a diagram.**
Inline Choice	**Drop-down menus embedded within text passages or questions, allowing students to select the correct option from a provided list.**

2.4 Administrative Considerations for All Students (Formerly Table 2)

LOCALLY PROVIDED: Principals and School Test Coordinators have the authority to schedule testing sessions in spaces other than regular classrooms and at different scheduled times as long as all requirements for testing and test security are met as set forth in the *Test Coordinator Manual.*

Decisions may be considered, for example, that benefit students who are easily distracted in large group settings by testing them in a small group or individual setting.

In general, changes to the timing, setting, or conditions of testing are left to the discretion of the principal or School Test Coordinator.

The principal or test coordinator may determine that ANY student can receive one or more of the following test administration considerations.

Adaptive and Specialized Equipment or Furniture: Student is provided specialized equipment or furniture needed for a successful testing environment (e.g., low lighting; adaptive seat).

Frequent Breaks:

- *In-Chair Stretch Break*: Student pauses and stretches. Student's testing time does not stop.
- *Individual Bathroom Breaks*: Student requests a bathroom break within their overall allotted testing time. Student's testing time does not stop.
- *Medical Breaks*: Student takes a break due to pre-existing or sudden onset of a temporary or long-term medical condition. Student's testing time stops.
- *Other Frequent Breaks.*

Separate or Alternate Location: Student is tested in a specifically assigned location.

Small Group Testing: Student is tested in a separate location as an individual or with a small group of students with matching accessibility features, accommodations, or testing needs as appropriate.

Specified Area or Setting: Student is tested in a specialized area or setting (e.g., front of the classroom, seat near the door, library, etc.).

Time of Day: Student is tested during a specific time of day based on their individual needs (e.g., ELE/L in the morning; no testing after lunch).

Table 5: Universal Tools, Accessibility Features, and Administration Considerations for Computer-Based Testing

Table 3 combines all universal tools, features, local supports, and local test considerations available for all students taking a regular IAR or ISA computer-based assessment. Most Grade 3-8 students across the state of Illinois, including students with disabilities and ELs, are provided with the tools and features needed to complete the standard computer-based Illinois Assessment of Readiness and the Illinois Science Assessment.

Tool or Support	Subject	Tool or Support Location
Adaptive and Specialized Equipment or Furniture	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
Answer Eliminator	**ALL**	**Embedded in CBT**
Answer Masking	**ALL**	**Embedded in CBT**
Blank Scratch Paper	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
Bookmark	**ALL**	**Embedded in CBT**
Calculator-Four Function	**Mathematics 6-7, Science**	**Embedded in CBT**
Closed Captioning on Videos	**ELA**	**Embedded in CBT**
Color Contrast	**ALL**	**Embedded in CBT**
Exhibits (for reference sheets)	**Mathematics 4-8, Science 8**	**Embedded in CBT**
Frequent Breaks	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
General Administration Directions Clarified	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
Glossary Pop-Up	**ALL**	**Embedded in CBT**

Handheld Calculator	**Mathematics 4-8, Science**	**Locally Provided**
Headphones or Noise Buffers	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
Highlighter	**ALL**	**Embedded in CBT**
Line Reader Mask	**ALL**	**Embedded in CBT**
Magnifier	**ALL**	**Embedded in CBT**
Notepad	**ELA/L**	**Embedded in CBT**
Protractor	**Mathematics 6-7**	**Embedded in CBT**
Read Test to Self	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
Read/Repeat General Administration Directions as Needed	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
Redirect Students as Needed	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
Ruler	**Mathematics**	**Embedded in CBT**
Scientific Calculator	**Mathematics (Grade 8)**	**Embedded in CBT**
Separate or Alternate Location	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
Small Group Testing	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
Specified Area or Setting	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
Spell Check	**ALL**	**Embedded in CBT**
Spell Check Device	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
Text-to-Speech (Math and Science)	**Mathematics and Science**	**Embedded in CBT**
Time of Day	**ALL**	**Locally Provided**
Writing Tools	**ALL**	**Embedded in CBT**
Zoom	**ALL**	**Embedded in CBT**