



Parts of an Assessment

Excellent and equitable assessment design includes four key components. Each part of the Illinois Assessment of Readiness utilizes the expertise of Illinois educators to better meet students' needs.



1. STANDARDS

Rigorous Expectations for the Skills and Knowledge Students Learn All Year

Illinois stakeholders and educators created the rigorous Illinois Learning Standards. The standards emphasize depth over breadth and the application of knowledge to real world situations. The Illinois Assessment of Readiness measures the same standards students and educators have become familiar with over the past four years, which helps to ensure comparability.



2. QUESTIONS

Items Designed for Every Student to Show What They Know and Can Do

Illinois educators and the nonprofit New Meridian develop questions to test students' knowledge of key concepts and critical thinking, reasoning, research, communication, and problem solving skills. Items are validated for bias and precision before counting toward students' scores. An anchor set of questions that is the same from year to year links individual forms and maintains longitudinal comparability.



3. ADMINISTRATION

Delivery of the Assessment to 900,000 Students Across Illinois

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness reduces testing time by about one-third to six hours or less. A new computer-adaptive design coming in 2021 will allow questions to become more or less challenging for each student, based on their prior responses, which will provide more precise data on individual students' needs and skillsets. Computer-based assessments provide a greater set of tools, accessibility features, and supports for all students than are possible on paper.



4. SCORING & REPORTING

Results Returned to Teachers and Families to Guide Support for Students

Illinois educators use the data showing how much students' have grown and what standards they have mastered to improve instruction and support and to communicate with parents and families. The state also sends more resources and support to the schools in the greatest need. Schools and families will receive machine-scored results within one week and hand-scored results within one month of the end of the testing window beginning in 2020.

