Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

2023-2024 IREAD-3 Frequently Asked Questions

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) developed the following resource to provide general information regarding the Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination (IREAD-3) assessment for the 2023-2024 school year. Additional information can be found on IDOE's IREAD-3 webpage and the Indiana Assessment Portal.

General Guidance

Number	Question	Answer
1	**What is the purpose of IREAD-3?**	IREAD-3 is a reading assessment that measures foundational reading skills through grade three, including students' ability to read and understand grade-level text. IREAD-3 was developed in accordance with the 2010 Indiana General Assembly passage of Public Law 109, which required the evaluation of reading skills for all third grade students to ensure they can read at grade level prior to fourth grade.
2	**When is the IREAD-3 testing window for the 2023-2024 school year?**	IREAD-3 has two testing windows throughout the school year. The IREAD-3 Spring 2024 testing window is designated for all grade three students who did not previously pass in grade two, grade four and five students required to retest, and grade two students attending opt-in schools. ● **IREAD-3 Spring 2024 Testing Window:** Monday, March 4, through Friday, March 15 The IREAD-3 Summer Retest 2024 testing window is designated only for grade three students and above who did not pass in the spring administration and still require a passing score. ● **IREAD-3 Summer Retest 2024 Testing Window:** Monday, May 15, through Friday, June 28
3	**Which students are required to participate in IREAD-3 in the spring?**	All grade three students currently enrolled in an accredited Indiana school, including English learners (ELs) and students with disabilities, must participate in IREAD-3 unless they previously received a passing score in a grade two opt-in administration. Students in grades four and five who were enrolled in an Indiana school during grade three and did not receive a passing score or a Good Cause Exemption (GCE) must also participate in retesting. Students participating in Indiana's Alternate Measure (I AM) do not participate in IREAD-3.
4	**Are students participating in IREAD-3 also required to take ILEARN?**	Yes. IREAD-3 and ILEARN are separate assessments developed for different purposes. Legislative requirements call for participation in both assessments during the spring of grade three.

5	**What should schools do if their spring break is scheduled for the same week(s) as the spring IREAD-3 window?**	The Corporation Test Coordinator (CTC) should make a request through the [Test Administration Considerations Request Form](#) regarding an extension of the IREAD-3 assessment window. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) for assistance.
6	**How long will students have to complete the IREAD-3 assessment?**	Beginning spring 2024, IREAD-3 is untimed. Schools may use the Suggesting Timing Schedule found on page 4 of the [IREAD-3 Test Administrator's Manual (TAM)](#) when developing local testing schedules. However, students may be given the time they need to complete each test segment.
7	**Are schools allowed to administer all three segments of IREAD-3 to a student in a single day?**	IDOE strongly recommends that schools administer IREAD-3 over the course of at least two days. Schools choosing to administer the entire test in a single day are encouraged to provide students with adequate breaks between each segment.
8	**Are schools allowed to administer test segments out of sequence?**	Schools must administer the test segments in order, even if a student is absent and misses a test segment. Students cannot take IREAD-3 segments out of order beginning with the 2023-2024 school year due to the new auto-generated test functionality.
9	**What kind of items appear on IREAD-3, and what resources are available for parents and students to better understand the IREAD-3 assessment?**	IREAD-3 consists of multiple-choice items that measure foundational reading skills aligned to the [Indiana Academic Standards](#) through grade three. Below are a list of resources available to parents and students: ● The IREAD-3 Released Items Repository, available on the [Indiana Assessment Portal](#), includes items that may be used as sample assessments to familiarize students with test content and format. ● The [IREAD-3 Test Blueprint](#) outlines specific Indiana Academic Standards assessed by IREAD-3. This resource has been updated to align to the streamlined 2023 Indiana Academic Standards. ● [IREAD-3 Item Specifications](#) detail how each Indiana Academic Standard can be measured by items on the assessment. These specifications have been updated to align to the 2023 streamlined academic standards. ● The IREAD-3 Parent Guidance provides an explanation of IREAD-3 for parents and families. These resources and more are located on IDOE's [IREAD-3 webpage](#).

10	Are students required to participate in the IREAD-3 practice test?	Yes. Schools are required to administer the IREAD-3 practice test to students prior to administering the IREAD-3 operational assessment. If a student is absent when the practice test is administered and returns to school during the assessment window, the school must administer the practice test to the student before the operational assessment. Schools may administer the practice test to students more than once, as needed. Students participating in the summer retest administration are not required to participate in the practice test if they have already completed one during the spring administration.
11	What materials do Test Administrators (TAs) need to successfully administer IREAD-3?	- All TAs must use the IREAD-3 Testing Script (online or paper as appropriate) when administering the assessment to all students. This script is available for download on the [Indiana Assessment Portal](#). - TAs administering the assessment via paper-and-pencil must also use the Secure Segment 1 Script to administer phonics items to students. This secure script will be sent to CTCs' secure inbox in the [Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE)](#) prior to the IREAD-3 assessment window. - TAs administering the assessment on paper to students with a human reader accommodation will use the IREAD-3 Read Aloud Script. This secure script will be sent to appropriate CTCs' secure inbox in [TIDE](#) prior to the IREAD-3 assessment window.

Designated Features and Accommodations

Number	Question	Answer
12	What accommodations are available to students taking IREAD-3?	Please review Section 3, beginning on page 16, of the [2023-2024 Accessibility and Accommodations Information for Statewide Assessments](#) for a list of embedded and non-embedded accommodations available on IREAD-3.
13	How can schools ensure students who are deaf or hard of hearing (HoH) have access to the appropriate test form?	Students who have the hard-of-hearing (HoH) form accommodation indicated in a current Individualized Education Program (IEP), Service Plan, or indicated in a schools' certified Student Information System (SIS) will display the HoH accommodation in TIDE. Schools must submit the [2023-2024 Hard of Hearing Request form](#) to add the HoH form accommodation to a student's TIDE settings if the accommodation is written into the student's IEP rather than selected as a specific assessment accommodation. Students who receive this test form will not receive items measuring phonics standards, and their scores will be calculated without counting these items.

14	Are students who are deaf or HoH (receiving the IREAD-3 HoH accommodation) required to complete all three test segments?	Yes. While these students do not engage with Segment 1 items measuring phonics standards, there are items in the latter part of Segment 1 that all students must complete, in addition to all items in Segments 2 and 3. If a student does not answer any items in one or more test segments, a valid scale score cannot be achieved. Review the IREAD-3 TAM for more details.
15	Are all students able to receive the Visual Human Reader designated feature?	Designated features are available to any student for whom the need has been indicated by an educator (or team of educators), parents/guardians, the student (if appropriate), or other personnel who is familiar with the individual student's characteristics and needs. The Visual Human Reader feature requires audio and video streaming. If large numbers of students will be provided this feature, schools may wish to consider slightly staggering the start time of group testing (e.g., one group starts at 9 a.m. and the next group starts at 9:10 a.m.) for Segment 1 to reduce strain on local internet bandwidth. Technology directors should consider available local capacity and advise School Test Coordinators (STCs) if staggered start times might be needed. Contact the Indiana Assessment Help Desk for additional support.
16	How is the Visual Human Reader feature set in TIDE?	The Visual Human Reader should be set in TIDE prior to testing. CTCs and STCs have permissions to set this feature for students in TIDE. For support with setting the feature for large numbers of students, contact the Indiana Assessment Help Desk. TAs can also adjust the Visual Human Reader directly in the TA Interface once students log in to their test. This method should only be used if a student's designated feature was not correctly entered into TIDE prior to testing.
18	Is a student required to participate in the paper-and-pencil assessment if they only require directions from the online test script signed by a sign language interpreter?	If a student only requires general directions from the IREAD-3 online test script to be signed, which does not contain secure test information, they can participate in the online IREAD-3 assessment and would not require a sign language interpreter assessment accommodation. The information signed to the student from the online test script would include sign in information and review of test settings/features. These directions are provided to all students and do not contain secure information. If a student requires a sign language interpreter for items except items testing reading comprehension on secure test directions, the student is required to test paper-and-pencil and must have both accommodations indicated in their current, formal plan. The sign language interpreter and TA would use the IREAD-3 Paper Testing Script, IREAD-3 Paper Testing Script for Read Aloud Accommodation, and IREAD-3 Secure Segment 1 Script to ensure

		that it is clear what can and cannot be signed to the student on the assessment.

Grade Two Opt-In

Number	Question	Answer
19	**What is the purpose of administering IREAD-3 to grade two students?**	IDOE is committed to supporting early literacy by providing reading proficiency information earlier, allowing schools to respond quickly and provide targeted support for students who need it most. The IREAD-3 grade two opt-in opportunity allows schools to voluntarily administer IREAD-3 to grade two students to receive earlier intervention and indicators on how they are advancing in their reading abilities.
20	**What are the benefits of administering IREAD-3 to grade two students?**	● Early indicators of proficiency mean earlier intervention and support for students. ● Early reading support may lead to higher rates of reading success at grade three. ● There is reduced testing at grade three for students who pass in grade two. ● Early reading support may lead to fewer GCEs in grade three.
21	**How are accommodations for grade two students populated in TIDE?**	Assessment accommodations from Indiana IEP and Indiana ILP are imported to the TIDE via nightly Data Exchange for students with an IEP, Individual Learning Plan (ILP), or Service Plan. Accommodations for Section 504 Plans, Choice Special Education Plans (CSEP), or ILPs (utilized outside of Indiana ILP) must be provided via the Data Exchange Validation Portal with a direct connection from a school's Indiana-certified SIS vendor.
22	**How will the scores for grade two students be reported?**	Students who receive a passing score of 446 or higher on IREAD-3 in grade two will be reported the following year with their cohort and included in statewide data following the grade three administration.
23	**Can a grade two student be granted a GCE?**	No. GCEs cannot be granted until after the grade three IREAD-3 administration.
24	**Will grade two students be administered the same test as grade three students?**	Yes. Grade two and grade three students will be administered the same assessment.

25	When is the assessment window for grade two students taking IREAD-3?	Grade two students will test during the same window as grade three students.
26	How can schools opt in to administer IREAD-3 to grade two students?	Schools can opt-in to administer IREAD-3 to grade two students via this JotForm. The deadline for the spring 2024 opt-in opportunity is Saturday, February 10.
27	Are grade two students required to retest in the summer if they do not receive a passing score in the spring?	No. Grade two students who did not pass IREAD-3 in their spring opt-in administration will not take the assessment again until the spring administration in grade three.

Scoring and Reporting

Number	Question	Answer
28	How is IREAD-3 scored? Is there a rescore process? What score is required to pass IREAD-3?	IREAD-3 consists of multiple-choice items only. The assessment vendor's scoring system scores all items, and there is no rescore process. Students must attain a scale score of 446 or higher in order to pass IREAD-3. Please review the Indiana Interpretive Guide for Statewide Assessments on the Indiana Assessment Portal for more details.
29	How soon after students complete the IREAD-3 assessment will spring results become available to schools?	Individual student scores will begin populating in the Centralized Reporting System (CRS) 24 hours after test completion. Results are considered final on Monday, April 29, 2024 (spring testing) and Monday, July 29, 2024 for summer testing following the paper testing discrepancy resolution window. No student score labels will be shipped to schools.
30	Will schools receive printed copies of students' Individual Student Reports (ISRs)?	No. Schools can download and print ISRs locally as soon as student results are posted in CRS. Schools can also provide results to parents via secure electronic systems in lieu of printing and mailing results.
31	How does IDOE calculate a corporation's or school's passing percentage?	Only grade three students enrolled at a school during the majority of their third grade year are included in this calculation. Students who test during grade two will be included the following year with their third-grade school of record's results for grade three. Students not included are those who participate in I AM and any grade four or five retesters.

32	**What are the performance levels for grade three students?**	Grade three students will receive initial 'Pass' and 'Did Not Pass' indicators, along with the scale score and reporting category subscores within two weeks of completing the assessment. ● Students who receive the 'Pass' indicator (a cut score of 446-650) have achieved proficient understanding when reading and responding to grade-level literary and informational texts. ● Students who receive the 'Did Not Pass' indicator (a cut score of 200-445) have demonstrated limited understanding when reading and responding to grade-level literary and informational texts. View the [Performance Level Descriptors resource here]().
33	**What are the performance levels for grade two students?**	Grade two students will receive initial 'Pass', 'On Track', or 'At Risk' indicators, along with the scale score and reporting category subscores within two weeks of completing the assessment. ● Students who participate in IREAD-3 during grade two and receive the 'Pass' indicator (a cut score of 446-650) will not have to participate in IREAD-3 during grade three. They have achieved proficiency in foundational reading. ● Students who participate during grade two who receive the new 'On Track' indicator (a cut score of 405-445) are not flagged for specific remediation, but will still participate in the grade three administration to confirm that they have achieved proficiency in foundational reading. ● Students who participate during grade two who receive the 'At Risk' indicator (a cut score of 200-404) are flagged for early support and remediation to ensure that they can achieve proficiency by the end of grade three. View the [Performance Level Descriptors resource here]().

Remediation & Retesting

Number	Question	Answer
34	**What are the next steps to support a student who does not pass IREAD-3 in the spring?**	Schools are required to provide reading remediation to grade three students who do not achieve a passing score on the spring IREAD-3 assessment as well as the opportunity to participate in the IREAD-3 Summer Retest administration. Students who do not pass in grade two will participate in the spring administration of grade three as the next assessment opportunity.

35	What guidelines should schools follow when providing remediation for students who do not pass IREAD-3 in the spring?	Students who do not pass IREAD-3 this spring should receive additional support on the five components of reading, including foundational reading skills and reading comprehension. More information can be found on IDOE's [Literacy Development webpage](#). Remediation may look different for each student and should be based on individual student needs; however, all remediation should be based on the science of reading. Schools are encouraged to consult the [Literacy Frameworks](#) as they plan remediation for students.
36	Which students must participate in the IREAD-3 Summer Retest?	- Students from a non-accredited Indiana school or out-of-state school who enrolled in grade three at an accredited Indiana school after the spring IREAD-3 testing window but before the end of the school year; and - Students in grades three, four, and five who took IREAD-3 in the spring but do not have a passing score (e.g., Did Not Pass, Undetermined, Invalidated) and have not been granted a GCE.
37	How many times may a student participate in the IREAD-3 Summer Retest? What flexibility do schools have when scheduling students for this administration?	Schools are responsible for scheduling individual students to participate in IREAD-3 during the defined summer window and communicating this opportunity with parents. A student participating in the IREAD-3 Summer Retest is allowed one testing opportunity within that testing window.
38	Is paper testing an available accommodation for students participating in the IREAD-3 Summer Retest? How can schools request a paper test?	Regular print, large print, and braille test books are available as formal accommodations. Schools are responsible for reporting student accommodations to IDOE (e.g., Data Exchange, Indiana IEP) and placing paper orders in TIDE during the identified summer ordering window prior to testing. There will be no initial orders automatically generated for paper materials for the summer testing window; all orders must be placed within TIDE. The order window for the IREAD-3 Summer Retest 2024 is Tuesday, April 30, through Friday, June 7.

Good Cause Exemptions

Number	Question	Answer
39	**What is a GCE, and who is eligible?**	A GCE serves to exempt an eligible student from additional IREAD-3 testing. GCEs cannot exempt students from **initial** participation in IREAD-3. They may only be granted following a student's initial testing attempt in specific situations.
		Currently, ELs, students with disabilities, and students who have already been retained twice (or received two additional years' worth of grade three reading instruction) are eligible to receive a GCE. **Grade two students are not eligible for a GCE.** Educators and families should review the [Process and Considerations For Issuing a Good Cause Exemption](#) to help guide decision-making.
40	**When can schools grant GCEs to students who do not pass IREAD-3? Who is able to grant exemptions?**	GCEs can be granted to eligible students only after schools review the students' IREAD-3 results. ILP committees are able to grant exemptions for ELs, CCCs are able to grant exemptions for students with disabilities, and school officials may grant exemptions for students who have already been retained twice (or received two additional years' worth of grade three reading instruction).
41	**How and when should schools report GCE data to IDOE?**	Schools must report GCEs via the [2023-2024 Good Cause Exemption Intervention Plan JotForm](#). This form should be completed during or shortly thereafter the CCC or ILP committee meeting.
42	**Would a student who becomes eligible for special education services become eligible for a GCE if they did not pass IREAD-3 in the spring?**	Yes. As long as the student has participated in at least one IREAD-3 test administration in grade three with valid results, the CCC may grant an exemption. After granting a GCE, schools should refer to the following resources: ● [IREAD-3 Remediation Support](#) ● Indiana Learning Lab: [IREAD-3 Resources](#) ● [IDOE's Literacy Development Resources](#)
43	**Are students who receive a GCE still required to receive reading remediation?**	Students who receive a GCE should receive targeted instruction designed to meet the goals within their IEPs and ILPs.

For additional information, please contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#).

Version: 2024.01.05