



2025-2026 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Guidance

The Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) Office of Assessment provides the following guidance to support the Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant. Using formative and interim assessment data can assist schools in providing the most effective support for students. Additional information can be found on IDOE's [Formative \(Interim\) Assessment Grant webpage](#).

Vision and Purpose

Eliciting and analyzing evidence of student learning to guide classroom instruction at the individual student level results in increased academic success. Indiana's Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant provides funding to schools for approved formative (interim) assessment programs and specific universal reading screeners (that meet legislative requirements) to increase data-driven instructional practices and enrich learning for all students.

[Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-32-5.1-17](#) governs funding set aside for the Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant.

Grant Eligibility

All Indiana public school corporations, charter schools, and accredited non-public schools (including Choice scholarship schools) serving students in kindergarten through grade ten are eligible. Schools that successfully submit the grant application will receive funds based on allocation guidelines. This is not a competitive grant.

Allowable Uses of Funds

- Approved mathematics assessment programs ([see Appendix A](#)).
- Approved English/language arts assessment programs ([see Appendix A](#)).
- Specific approved universal reading screeners ([see Appendix A](#)). Diagnostic assessments for dyslexia are **not** included in this grant.
- Professional development and implementation support for and provided by selected, approved assessment programs offered through the program vendor.

ILEARN Checkpoints

Beginning school year 2025-2026, all schools are required to administer ILEARN Checkpoints to students in grades three through eight. ILEARN Checkpoints are 100% aligned to Indiana's Academic Standards and proficiency expectations, and they provide data for schools to check student performance throughout the year. Instructional and Assessment Frameworks support instruction and intervention efforts. Additional assessments for these students are not required. When discussing the possibility of additional interim assessments for grades three through eight, schools must be thoughtful and have rationale for why it may be appropriate to provide.

Schools may decide that students receiving intensive intervention or off-grade level support who may need additional monitoring, could benefit from additional formative (interim) assessments. ILEARN Checkpoints and Summative include local, state, and national percentile rankings which can be used for high ability identification and other reports or applications as needed.

- If a school does not plan to administer additional interim assessments in addition to the ILEARN Checkpoints, do not request funds through the application JotForm for the applicable grade levels.
- IDOE will only approve the use of Formative Assessment Grant funds for up to 10% of a corporation's student population for grades three through eight.
- Formative assessment funds may not be used to purchase materials to administer any assessment, including the ILEARN Checkpoints (i.e., headphones, computers, etc).
- Professional development for the ILEARN Checkpoints is provided by the state at no cost. Schools should not apply for formative funds specifically to pay for professional development for ILEARN Checkpoints.
- Formative assessment funds may not be used on Tier 2 curricular vendor programs (i.e., IXL and Edmentum) for the ClearFrame API integration.

Funding Allocations

During the 2025-2026 school year, all students in grades three through eight will participate in the ILEARN Through Year Assessment System which includes three Checkpoints and Summative. The ILEARN Checkpoints are intended to be administered after students have received instruction on the standards assessed. Schools are able to track mastery over the course of the year through the administration of the ILEARN Checkpoints to inform intervention or reinforcement of skills before the Summative assessment.

IDOE will prioritize funding for kindergarten through two and grades nine through ten with remaining available funds for ten percent (10%) of requested students per grade level for grades three through eight. Small subsets of students who are receiving targeted interventions may require additional formative assessment for progress monitoring purposes.

Funding Allocations

Kindergarten through Grade Two

Schools may apply for up to three assessment allocations for students in kindergarten through grade two (English/language arts, universal reading screener and mathematics).

The **estimated** allocation per student for grades kindergarten through two per assessment for the 2025-2026 school year is anticipated to remain near or at \$7.60. Students in kindergarten through grade two could receive funds for three subject areas, English/language arts, mathematics, and universal reading screener for a total of near or at \$22.80 per student.

Grades Three through Eight

Schools may apply for up to two assessment allocations for up to 10% of the student population of a specific grade level for students in grades three through eight for English/language arts and mathematics. IDOE will automatically reduce any identified overages to ensure compliance with the 10% limit. The **estimated** allocation per student for grades three through eight for the 2025-2026 school year is anticipated to remain near or at \$7.60. The total amount may be higher or lower based on the total number of participants.

Grades Nine through Ten

Schools may apply for up to two assessment allocations (mathematics and/or English/language arts) for students in grades nine through ten. The **estimated** allocation per student for grades nine and ten per assessment for the 2025-2026 school year is anticipated to remain near or at \$7.60. Students in grades nine and ten could receive funds for two subject areas, English/language arts and mathematics for a total of near or at \$15.20 per student. The total amount may be higher or lower based on the total number of participants.

Fiscal Responsibility

Schools must have a plan for how they will use funds prior to applying. Funds that are distributed and then returned can no longer be used for education purposes.

Local Contracts

Funds from this grant are distributed directly to corporations. Corporations and schools will enter into local contracts with their selected assessment program vendor(s) from the approved assessment program list. Corporations may choose to contract with and implement assessments prior to fund distribution; however, the corporation would be responsible for any costs incurred above the final distribution amount.

Flexibility

The level of flexibility differs for formative/interim/benchmark assessment programs and dyslexia universal screening assessment programs.

For formative/interim/benchmark assessments, corporations and schools determine details regarding the use of grant funds. Corporations may determine:

- Participating schools
- Participating grade levels
- Participating students
- Which content areas (mathematics and/or English/language arts) are being assessed

- Which assessment programs are being used for each school/grade level
- When the programs are in use (i.e., when to enter into the contract within the school year, when testing windows occur, etc.)

For universal reading screeners, corporations must follow the requirements listed in IDOE's [Dyslexia Programming Guidance for Schools](#). Schools in which fewer than seventy percent (70%) of students in the school achieved a valid passing score on IREAD must only request formative (interim) funds for the approved, preferred universal reading screener, Acadience Reading K-6.

Timeline of Important Dates

Corporations and schools should use this timeline of important dates to complete tasks required to participate in this grant opportunity.

Date	Event or Task	Additional Information
Wednesday, July 16, 2025*	Initial assessment program approval list presented to SBOE for approval.	Access the most up-to-date list of approved assessment programs in Appendix A.
Friday, July 18, 2025*	Initial approved assessment program list published.	Approved assessments are published through the Corporation Test Coordinator (CTC) weekly listserv, on the Formative Assessment Grant website , and in IDOE's weekly update .
Friday, July 18, through Friday, August 15, 2025	Grant application window is open.	Instructions and link for applying will be published through the CTC weekly listserv and on the Formative Assessment Grant website .
Monday, August 25, 2025	Distribution list published to schools.	The distribution list is published through the CTC weekly listserv and additional Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant contacts at local schools.

Monday, September 29, 2025* (or earlier)	Funds distributed to schools.	Funds are deposited via electronic transfer. Contact the Office of Student Assessment for additional information.
June 1, 2026, through August 28, 2026	Final report form is open.	All participating schools must complete a final report verifying use of grant funds. The final report instructions and link will be published through the CTC weekly listserv and additional Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant contacts at local schools.
September 4, 2026	Any unused funds must be returned to IDOE.	Unused funds must be returned via the instructions in the Final Report Guidance published through the CTC weekly listserv and the Formative Assessment Grant website .

*Dates are dependent on SBOE approvals and may be subject to change.

Appendix A: Approved Assessment Programs and Dyslexia Universal Screeners including Characteristics of Dyslexia**English/Language Arts and Mathematics Assessment Programs:**

- Amira Learning & HMH: Amira Learning Assess ISIP
- Amplify: mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition
- College Board: PSAT 8/9
- College Board: PSAT 10
- Curriculum Associates, LLC: i-Ready Assessments
- Edmentum: Study Island
- Edmentum: Exact Path
- NWEA: MAP Growth
- NWEA: MAP Suite for Early Learners
- Renaissance Learning, Inc: DnA Indiana Interim Assessment

Preferred Universal Screener including Characteristics of Dyslexia (schools with fewer than 70% of students passing IREAD must utilize this screener)

- Acadience Learning: Acadience K-6 Reading

Additional Universal Screeners including Characteristics of Dyslexia

- Amira Learning & HMH: Amira Learning Assess ISIP
- Amplify: mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition
- Imagine Learning LLC: Imagine+Early Literacy/Dyslexia Screener
- NWEA: MAP Reading Fluency Dyslexia Screener