

INDIANA'S EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE

June 23, 2014

Resolution to Adopt K-12 Assessments

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 20-19-4-10, the Education Roundtable shall review and recommend to the State Board of Education ("Board") for the Board's approval the content and format of the Indiana Statewide Test for Educational Progress (ISTEP program), including the graduation examination and the passing scores required at the various grade levels tested under the ISTEP program;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 20-19-4-11, the Education Roundtable shall take into consideration in making assessment recommendations a variety of national and international assessments and tests and the development of a test unique to Indiana and any combination of assessments;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 20-19-4-12, the Education Roundtable shall take into consideration in making assessment recommendations only state tests that when appropriate present the content of each test in an interdisciplinary manner and provide each student with the opportunity to meet the academic standards in an applied manner;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 20-32-5-1, the ISTEP shall:

- (1) assess the strengths and weaknesses of school performance.
- (2) assess the effects of state and local educational programs.
- (3) compare achievement of Indiana students to achievement of students on a national basis.
- (4) provide a source of information for state and local decision makers with regard to educational matters, including the following:
 - (A) The overall academic progress of students.
 - (B) The need for new or revised educational programs.
 - (C) The need to terminate existing educational programs.
 - (D) Student readiness for postsecondary school experiences.
 - (E) Overall curriculum development and revision activities.
 - (F) Identifying students who may need remediation under IC 20-32-8.
 - (G) Diagnosing individual student needs.
 - (H) Teacher education and staff development activities;

WHEREAS, IC 20-32-5-3 requires the ISTEP English/Language Arts and Mathematics test to include:

- (1) A method of testing basic skills appropriate for the designated grade level, including multiple choice questions.
- (2) A method of testing applied skills appropriate for the designated grade level, including short answer or essay questions and the solving of arithmetic or mathematical problems;

WHEREAS, IC 20-32-8.5-2 requires a Reading Remediation Deficiency Plan that includes a method of making determinant evaluations by grade 3 that might require remedial action for a student, including retention as a last resort;

WHEREAS, IC 20-32-9-3 requires students who have failed a graduation exam and may require a graduation waiver or who will likely require remediation work at a postsecondary educational institution or workforce training program to take a college and career readiness exam by the spring semester of grade 11; and

WHEREAS, IC 20-30-4-2 requires a student graduation plan that specifies an indication of assessments (other than ISTEP and the graduation examination) that the student plans to take voluntarily during grade 10 through grade 12, and which may include any of the following:

- (A) The SAT Reasoning Test.
- (B) The ACT test.
- (C) Advanced placement exams.
- (D) College readiness exams approved by the Department.
- (E) Workforce readiness exams approved by the Department of Workforce Development established under IC 22-4.1-2.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Education Roundtable recommends the following assessment requirements to inform the Board when designing a Request For Proposal for a new assessment system, and also when selecting vendor(s) that respond to the RFP:

1. An assessment system that is aligned to the college-and-career ready Indiana Academic Standards for English Language Arts (“ELA”) and Mathematics (2014).
2. The state will not mandate assessments in grades K, 1 or 2.
3. A mandatory, fixed-form, summative assessment (that measures both proficiency and growth) will be administered to students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.
4. The state will offer optional formative assessments for grades K through 10. During the 2014 Request For Proposals process, the Board will explore the possibility of adaptive optional formative assessments.
5. IREAD-3 will be maintained as a separate assessment in accordance with Board regulations. The mandatory summative assessment should continue to measure reading items aligned with the ELA standards.
6. Current End of Course Assessments for Algebra 1 and English 10 will be phased out and replaced by the 10th grade summative assessment for purposes of the graduation examination.
7. Courses and aligned content requirements for the 10th grade summative assessment for Math will be determined by the Board in consultation with the Indiana Department of Education (“Department”), the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indiana institutions of higher education, national experts in math pathways, and other independent experts as necessary.
8. Students in grades 11 and 12 will be provided with the option to take one or more assessments, approved by the Board, and designed to provide information regarding readiness for the following:
 - a. College admission;
 - b. College placement in credit-bearing courses;
 - c. Workforce readiness, including industry certifications; and
 - d. Military service.

The A-F accountability system will utilize a participation rate calculation for students who participate in any one of these assessments.

9. Notwithstanding 7 and 8 above, students identified as at risk for and/or in need of remediation under HEA 1005 [PL 268-2013] will be required to take a college-and-career readiness exam approved by the Board to determine remediation needs. The Board-approved college-and-career readiness exam may be reflected in the A-F system participation rate calculation.
10. It is recommended that the state give due consideration to funding the following assessment costs:
 - a. Required summative assessments for grades 3 through 10.
 - b. The full cost of at least one of the optional college-and-career readiness assessments administered in grades 11 and 12.
 - c. The full cost of the required college-and-career readiness exam utilized under HEA 1005 [PL 268-2013] for purposes of remediation determinations.
 - d. The full cost of at least one formative assessment for grades K through 10.