



MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Michele Walker, Director
Office of Student Assessment
DATE: January 23, 2015
RE: ISTEP+ Statewide Readiness Update

The following information, which was disseminated to schools and corporations, provides an overview of recent events and next steps related to the ISTEP+ Statewide Readiness Test. You may wish to review the below details in preparation for the February 4 State Board of Education meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

Statewide Readiness Concerns

We have been listening to your feedback regarding the online Statewide Readiness Test that took place on Tuesday, January 13. Thank you for taking time to share your comments and concerns, as your input is much appreciated.

In response to your feedback, and based on our concerns, we have been engaged in continuous conversations this week with CTB regarding the online system performance exhibited during the Statewide Readiness Test. Last evening, the IDOE made a decision to reschedule the January 20 Statewide Readiness Test and directed CTB to postpone it until the new Test Delivery Client (TDC) and iPad App have been released.

Purpose of the Statewide Readiness Test

A statewide readiness process has been part of online testing in Indiana for many years. The purpose of the Statewide Readiness Test is to determine the level of preparedness for online testing on the part of CTB, and to ensure that local school workstations and technology systems are ready for the actual test administration. A test of the system load, servers, and equipment both at CTB and throughout local school corporations is a critical part of the readiness process.

For spring 2015, ISTEP+ online testing will be administered via a cloud-based system for the first time, and the Statewide Readiness Test was intentionally conducted early due to this move to the cloud. One of the most important objectives of the Statewide Readiness Test this year is to determine the appropriate cloud-based settings, including the maximum number of transactions needed per second. CTB is using data from the January 13 Statewide Readiness Test to increase the transaction capacity of the cloud-based system, to adjust configuration parameters and load balance across all of the servers, and to conduct additional load tests in the production environment using simulated assessment traffic.

Conducting the Next Statewide Readiness Test

The early Statewide Readiness Test provided much-needed information about the cloud-based settings; however, it did not allow us to employ the operational Test Delivery Client (TDC). The

TDC that will be used for operational testing is scheduled for release at the end of this month, and the iPad App is anticipated to be released in the Apple Store the first week of February. Therefore, the IDOE has selected **Thursday, February 12, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Eastern**, for the next Statewide Readiness Test.

Depending on the results of the February 12 Statewide Readiness Test, sites that “opted in” to administer ISTEP+ Part 1 online will have the opportunity to switch to paper-and-pencil for the March ISTEP+ administration.

***Join Us for a Webinar***

Superintendent Ritz invites you to join us for one of two webinars to discuss the February 12 Statewide Readiness Test. The dates/times of the webinars are listed below:

- Wednesday, January 28, 4:00 p.m. Eastern
- Friday, January 30, 2:00 p.m. Eastern

More details regarding these sessions will be shared next week.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with us. We look forward to working with Test Coordinators and Technology Coordinators during the online system configuration process.



**Glenda Ritz, NBCT**  
Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Dr. Michele Walker, Director  
Office of Student Assessment

**RE:** Assessment Date Change Requests

**DATE:** January 26, 2015

The State Board of Education provides authority for the Indiana Department of Education to review and approve requests to begin testing up to seven calendar days in advance of an established testing window. All other requests to begin testing any earlier require review and approval by the State Board of Education.

Fifty-eight requests for a date change of seven days or less were approved by the Indiana Department of Education (see Appendix A). The request below requires State Board review and approval:

Corporation / School	Request	Rationale
Burriss Laboratory School	Begin the ISTEP+ Part 1 test eight business days early <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Established Dates: March 2-11, 2015</li><li>Requested Dates: February 18-27, 2015</li></ul>	Spring Break is scheduled March 2-11, 2015.

We respectfully request approval of the above request.

**Appendix A:  
Date Change Requests Approved by IDOE**

<b>Corporation/Charter/ Nonpublic School</b>	<b>Corporation/Charter/Nonpublic School Name</b>
0365	BARTHOLOMOW CONS. SCHOOL CORP
0370	FLAT ROCK-HAWCREEK SCHOOL CORP
1600	SOUTH BEARBORN COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORP
1620	LAWRENCEBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORP
1730	GREENSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
2435	ATTICA CONS. SCHOOL CORP
3135	MT. VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORP
3145	COMMUNITY SCH CORP OF EASTERN HANCOCK
3995	MADISON CONS. SCHOOLS
4000	SOUTHWESTERN JEFFERSON CCSC
4215	EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORP
4315	NORTH KNOX SCHOOL CORP
4325	SOUTH KNOX SCHOOL CORP
4335	VINCENNES COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORP
5255	SOUTH MADISON COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORP
5275	ANDERSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORP
5615	MACONAQUAH SCHOOL CORP
5705	RICHLAND-BEAN BLOSSOM COM SCHOOL CORP
5740	MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORP
6080	RISING SUN-OHIO COUNTY SCHOOLS
6195	SPENCER OWEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
6895	BATESVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORP
6900	JAC-CEN-DEL COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORP
6910	MILAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
7775	SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORP
7875	WEST LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORP
9340	NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL
9725	CANAAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY
9835	THE BLOOMINGTON PROJECT SCHOOL
9620	BURRIS LABORATORY SCHOOL
A425	ST. BARTHOLOMEW SCHOOL
A550	ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A560	ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL
A570	SCARED HEART SCHOOL
A680	SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL
A685	ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A690	SAINT MARY SCHOOL
A700	SAINT LAWRENCE SCHOOL
A730	ST. MARYS SCHOOL – GREENSBURG

B050	HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL
B606	OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SCHOOL
B067	ST. MARY OF THE KNOBS
B280	ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL
B540	SS FRANCIS AND CLARE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
C900	ST. CHARLES BORROMEO CATHOLIC SCHOOL
D130	SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL
C205	ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL
C210	ST. MARY SCHOOL
B565	FLAGET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
A430	WHITE CREEK LUTHERAN SCHOOL
A435	ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL
A450	COLUMBUS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
A724	GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
B493	CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF MADISON
C225	LIBERTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
C899	PINNACLE SCHOOL
C918	THE PREP SCHOOL
C927	LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY