Indiana Department of Education
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer

RE: Recommendation to Further Expand ISTEP+ Online Testing

DATE: July 18, 2012

Background
As reported previously, in preparation for online testing in Spring 2011, a thorough technology survey and online load tests were conducted during the fall and winter (October – February) of the 2010-11 school year to determine the capacity of schools to deliver ISTEP+ online. The department also conducted a stress test in mid-January of 2012 to analyze the impact of concurrent use of our vendor's assessment system in advance of the 2011-12 ISTEP+ testing windows. Data from the stress test indicated no issues of concern, but did provide an opportunity for the department to support schools and districts as they prepared for online delivery of ISTEP+.
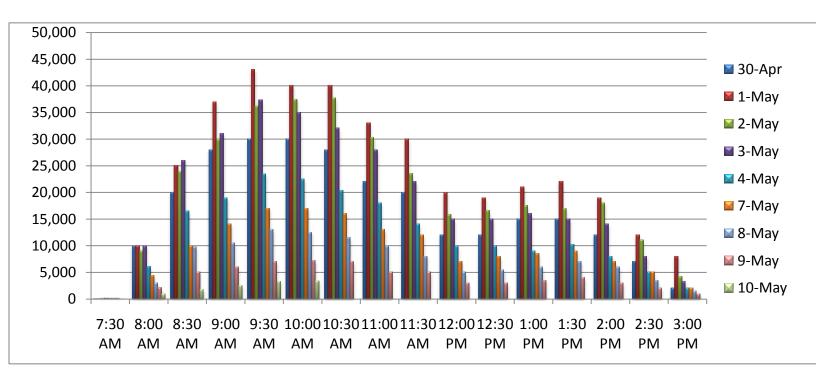
Issue
Whether schools across the state are adequately prepared to exclusively deliver the multiple-choice portion of ISTEP+ online during the 2012-13 school year.

The table below shows actual test delivery data for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years.

Item Description	Spring 2011	Spring 2012
Percentage of Schools Testing 100% Online	**10%** (192)	**33%** (606)
Percentage of Schools Testing At Least One Grade Online	**76%** (1412)	**89 %** (1625)
Schools with "good" networks	**74%**	**97%**

The following table shows the daily and hourly concurrence rates for online testing during the 2011-12 multiple-choice testing window. Please note the actual maximum concurrency was 42,780 (between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. on May 1, 2012), which is well below the full system concurrent capacity of 100,000. Additionally, please note that after noon the testing rate falls to well below 50% of the morning peak rate, as well as the fact that on the final day of testing, May 11, there was very little testing at all and no online testing was conducted after 10:30 a.m. Due to the very low testing volume, May 11 is not displayed on the graph below.

Recommendation

These data indicate available capacity of Indiana schools to deliver online testing for all grade levels of students to take the multiple-choice section of ISTEP+ during the 2012-13 school year. Consequently, I recommend the State Board of Education require online ISTEP+ testing for the multiple-choice portion for <u>all</u> grade levels of students in all schools having the required equipment and verified infrastructure.