

Chapter One

Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+)

Introduction and Background

TIME	EVENT	GRADE LEVELS	DETAILS	TIME OF YEAR
1987	ISTEP is created			
1988	ISTEP is first administered	1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9	Multiple-Choice Writing	Spring
1995	ISTEP changes to ISTEP+	3, 6, 8, and 10	Norm-referenced and Criterion-referenced	Fall
			Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	
2002 (2004)	ISTEP+ reflects new 2000 Academic Standards	3, 6, 8 (10)	Criterion-referenced	Fall
			Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	
2003	ISTEP+ adds other grade levels	3-8, 10	Criterion-referenced	Fall
			Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	
2008	ISTEP+ moves to the spring	3-8	Criterion-referenced	Fall and Spring
			Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	
2009	ISTEP+ / new Graduation Requirement	3-8 / Algebra I and English 10	Criterion-referenced	Spring / Completion of course
			Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	
2015	ISTEP+ reflects new college- and career-ready 2014 ELA, Math Standards	3-8 / Algebra I and English 10	Criterion-referenced	Spring / Completion of course
			Applied Skills, Multiple-Choice, Technology-Enhanced	

TIME	EVENT	GRADE LEVELS	DETAILS	TIME OF YEAR
2016	ISTEP+ (including new Grade 10 test)	3-8, 10	Criterion-referenced	Spring
			Applied Skills, Multiple-Choice,	
			Technology-Enhanced	

The Purpose of ISTEP+ Assessments in Grades 3-8 and 10

The purpose of the *Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+)* program is to measure student achievement in the subject areas of English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. In particular, ISTEP+ reports student achievement levels according to the *Indiana Academic Standards* that were adopted by the Indiana State Board of Education. The ISTEP+ assessment is criterion-referenced and is designed to measure students' mastery of the standards. Student performance on ISTEP+ is part of school accountability.

Structure and Content of ISTEP+ Testing for Spring 2016

In light of the implications of ISTEP+ scores for students, schools, and corporations under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the ESEA Flexibility Waiver, and PL 221-1999 (federal and state accountability), test administrators must be accurate and methodical in test preparation and administration, as well as in reporting student demographic characteristics. Testing personnel should note the following regarding the administration of the Spring 2016 ISTEP+:

- I. ISTEP+ consists of two major components:
 - a. ISTEP+ Part 1
 - i. Administered in March
 - ii. Online and paper/pencil administrations include Applied Skills (open-ended) items
 - b. ISTEP+ Part 2
 - i. Administered in April/May
 - ii. Online administration includes multiple-choice and technology-enhanced items
 - iii. Paper/pencil administration includes multiple-choice, and in Grades 4-8 and 10, gridded-response items
2. Online Administration Details
 - a. For Spring 2016, the Part 1 Assessment may be administered online for English/language arts, science and social studies.
 - b. For Spring 2016, the Part 2 Assessment is required to be administered online for English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies at all grades unless documented equipment or capacity or connectivity issues prohibit a site from testing all students online.

3. English/language arts and mathematics are assessed in Grades 3-8 and 10.
4. Science is assessed in Grades 4, 6 and 10 (or at the conclusion of a high school credit bearing Biology I course); social studies is assessed in Grades 5 and 7.
5. The mathematics portion of the assessment in Grades 3-8 will include a fluency section, as Mathematical Process Standard 5 requires the use of appropriate tools strategically. Sample items will be posted at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8>.
6. The mathematics portion of the assessment in Grades 4-8 and 10 includes a reference sheet of formulas and conversions for students to use while testing. Students can use the reference sheet to help them solve some of the problems on the assessment. A new reference sheet for the Grade 10 Spring 2016 ISTEP+ administration is being created and will be posted at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grade-10>. Reference sheets for Grades 4-8 Spring 2016 ISTEP+ are already posted at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8>.
7. The paper-and-pencil version of the ISTEP+ Part 2 Assessment includes gridded-response mathematics items for students in grades 4-8 and 10. The scoring guide that accompanies the gridded-response practice test may be useful in identifying the ways in which an answer may be gridded correctly. Blank grids and a practice test will also be available for download at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8> and <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grade-10> prior to Spring 2016 ISTEP+ practice test administration.
8. The mathematics portion of the assessment in Grades 6-8 and 10 includes the use of calculators on particular test sessions. Students may use their own calculators or calculators supplied by the classroom teacher. Contact the School Test Coordinator for a list of the electronic devices that are NOT permitted for use on any portion of ISTEP+, or go to <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8> and <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grade-10>.
9. Sample items for the Spring 2016 ISTEP+ test are being created and will be available at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8> and <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grade-10> in the “Item Samplers” section.

Testing Accommodations

The approved accommodations outlined in *Appendix C* apply to ISTEP+. The provision of these testing accommodations may be administered by classroom teachers in addition to program area staff (i.e., EL teacher). Test examiners must be made aware of each student’s allowable accommodations.

ISTEP+ (Grades 3-8, and 10) Assessment Windows for 2015-2016

Please review the “Assessment Testing Windows” section of the Office of Student Assessment’s website at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment> for more details on testing windows.

Exceptions to Required ISTEP+ Testing Dates

In general, no public or other educational institution administering ISTEP+ may administer ISTEP+ on dates outside of the assessment windows (see above) established by the State Board. However, the State Board has allowed the Department limited authority to grant exceptions to established testing dates under the following guidelines:

The Department shall:

- Not approve requests that provide for administration more than one week prior to the established period.
- Not approve requests for late administration.
- Approve only those requests based on long-standing community tradition or extraordinary or emergency circumstances.

Those wishing to request early administration of ISTEP+ should complete and submit a written request for approval (see form in *Appendix B*). The request should adhere to the State Board guidelines cited above.

The results from the ISTEP+ assessment must be communicated to parents in a timely manner.

NOTE:

For additional information regarding ISTEP+, please access <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8> and <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grade-10>.