



Indiana Department of Education  
2019 Legislative Priority

**Increase assessment system efficiency by aligning ISTAR-KR, IREAD-3, and ILEARN**

Schools need data to inform decision-making and support student growth. A system of assessment aligns expectations across grade levels and promotes instructional and curricular systems. The creation of ILEARN and I AM initiated the Department's effort to develop an aligned and comprehensive system of assessments. Expanding these alignment efforts to fully consider ISTAR-KR and IREAD-3 provides a more comprehensive and integrated system of assessment to support student learning.

The new ILEARN Grade 3 English/Language Arts assessment incorporates measurement of foundational reading skills and reading comprehension. To minimize the number of assessments required and to streamline data, the reading level indicator should be provided through ILEARN, and the administration of IREAD-3 should be limited to only those students requiring additional reading remediation and instructional supports.

Indiana Standards Tool for Alternate Reporting of Kindergarten Readiness (ISTAR-KR) serves as the existing assessment that measures skills in children from infancy to kindergarten. To provide appropriate measures for all students informed by best practices, ISTAR-KR will be replaced with an early childhood assessment that measures early learning standards beginning at age 3. This system will also include interim assessments for grades K-2, completing a system of assessment from age 3 through grade 8. The data sets will indicate a need for earlier remediation for students to be college and career ready.

Quick Facts

- ❑ The State manages several assessment programs across early childhood and school age student populations that functions independently and lack a systematic use and interpretation. Steps have been taken to address this; however, final steps must be completed.
- ❑ All grade 3 students are currently required to participate in two assessments annually; both IREAD-3 (March) and ILEARN (April-May). Thus, instructional hours are being unnecessarily used.
- ❑ As a result of aligning IREAD-3 to ILEARN, the State is expected to realize a testing cost savings.
- ❑ Approximately 87% of students pass IREAD-3 after no more than two attempts.
- ❑ The average grade 3 student spends 100 minutes completing IREAD-3 for each attempt. This is in addition to the approximately 370 minutes spent on the Mathematics and English/Language Arts summative assessment, ILEARN.