

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Corporation Test Coordinators  
CC: Superintendents  
Directors of Special Education  
From: Dr. Charity Flores, Director of the Office of Student  
Assessment  
Dr. Nancy Holsapple, Director of the Office Special  
Education  
Date: October 19, 2018  
Re: ILEARN and I AM Calculator Policy Update

**Background:**

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) initiated development of two new assessments, ILEARN and I AM, based on legislation from 2017. IDOE intentionally considered accessibility and appropriate use of accommodations for all student populations from the onset of building these assessments, while maintaining validity and reliability of student results required for domain reporting. IDOE created a new position, an Accessibility Specialist, and consults with an Indiana advisory group devoted to Accessibility and Accommodations, as well as a national accessibility expert to focus attention on balancing these needs.

There are many steps in the assessment development process to ensure validity and reliability of the assessments. Indiana educators from across the state, as well as staff from the offices of English Learners and Special Education, were involved in formalizing recommendations to IDOE during these steps to ensure the intended construct is assessed. Indiana educators attended the blueprint and item specification meetings for both ILEARN and I AM. These meetings informed how the construct of the Indiana Academic Standards would be assessed, and the inferences about what students know and can do utilizing the results of these assessments.

Based on additional input from Indiana educators, IDOE revisited the use of the calculator to ensure reporting reflects an accurate interpretation of the construct being assessed with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). TAC supported the IDOE's recommendation for calculator usage for both ILEARN and I AM for only those standards that measure computational skills. IDOE continued an internal review of the standards following the TAC meeting to consider the intent of the standards. The final policy for calculator usage for ILEARN and I AM is outlined below.

**Policy Statements:**

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has determined that use of a calculator is allowable on calculator-allowed items only for ALL students on the ILEARN mathematics tests to ensure the integrity of the foundational mathematical constructs (i.e., knowledge and skills) as designed on the assessment is maintained.

- ILEARN Mathematics Grades 3-5 assessment does not contain any calculator-allowed items. Given computational accuracy and fluency are skills inherent throughout the grades 3-5 academic standards, use of a calculator would prohibit accurate measurement of a student's mastery of these standards.
- ILEARN Mathematics Grades 6-8 assessment contains a majority of calculator-allowed items. Given the transition to application of computational accuracy and fluency, the use of a calculator allows accurate calculations during more complex knowledge and skills being assessed.

IDOE has determined use of a calculator is allowable on the I AM mathematics tests for grades 3-8 and 10 to support the foundational mathematical constructs (i.e., knowledge and skills) within the Indiana Content Connectors.

- The Indiana Content Connectors require mathematical fluency and application in grades 3-8 and 10. This accommodation aligns to instructional supports provided in the classroom to attain this fluency.

Refer to the [Calculator Policy](#) for more details.