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Superintendent of Public Instruction

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Working Together for Student Success

TO: Superintendents, Principals, School Leaders
FROM: Dr. Charity Flores, Director of Student Assessment
DATE: June 18, 2018
RE: ILEARN Technology Policy

Introduction to ILEARN and Computer Adaptive Testing:

ILEARN is the online, summative assessment system for Indiana students in Grades 3-8 beginning in 2018-2019. The ILEARN English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments will utilize Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) technology. CAT adapts the difficulty of the test based on student responses to previous questions or sets of questions. CAT assessments provide a set of questions that not only meets the test blueprint, but is also individually tailored to each student and can quickly identify which skills students have mastered. This allows for a unique assessment experience for students at their level of mastery along with more precise data outcomes. **The expectation is that all corporations and schools administer testing online based on the computer adaptive nature of the assessment¹.**

ILEARN Test Delivery System (TDS):

American Institutes for Research (AIR) is the contractor for ILEARN, IREAD-3, and I AM assessments. AIR's TDS has a simplistic setup for corporations/schools. AIR's Secure Browser is the only piece of software needed to administer tests. The Secure Browser is designed to:

- deploy easily to individual devices or multiple devices across a network;
- prevent test interruptions due to connectivity issues;
- preclude students from accessing other applications, copying information, etc.

Neither a local caching server nor a secondary save location (SFTP server) is required.

- In the event of an Internet or power outage, student responses already provided are saved, and students will restart where they left off once the connection is restored.
- The system is designed to make multiple attempts to reach the server if the connection is lost. Connections are often re-established without the student being aware that the connection was temporarily lost.
- If a connection cannot immediately be re-established or a student experiences persistent connectivity issues, testing will be paused until issues are resolved.

AIR provides diagnostic tools to check for system readiness. The Network Diagnostic Tool allows schools to test the capacity of their local networks and make adjustments, as necessary. The Text-to-Speech Sound Check tool allows schools to verify that audio is functioning on the testing device. Corporations and/or schools are required to determine network and system readiness in advance of test administrations and should establish contingency plans to ensure successful local delivery of the assessments. These diagnostic tools can be accessed at <https://demo.tds.airast.org/systemdiagnostic/pages/default.aspx>.

¹ A small quantity of "fixed" paper test forms are available for students with documented paper testing accommodations and students who, for religious reasons, object to the use of such technology. Note that "fixed" paper forms will yield limited assessment data as compared to the computer-adaptive test forms.

System Requirements:

AIR supports versions of Windows, macOS, Linux, iOS, Android, and Chrome OS, as well as a multitude of device types. Currently supported operating systems, devices, and web browsers for all AIR applications can be found at <https://ilearn.portal.airast.org/supported-browsers.stml>. A document detailing full system requirements will be available by October 1, 2018.

Other Requirements:

- **Examiner Device:** Each Test Examiner must have a device available for administration of AIR assessments. The examiner device will be used to manage and monitor student testing. The examiner device must be school-owned; smart phones may not be used. Supported operating systems, devices, and web browsers can be viewed under the TA Sites column of the System Requirements table, available at the above link.
- **Headphones/Earbuds:** Headphones/Earbuds are required for all students for listening portions of ILEARN English Language Arts assessments. Generic headphones/earbuds that are compatible with the testing device may be used. Schools may purchase headphones/earbuds or request them on their school supplies lists. Please note:
 - Headphones/Earbuds are also required for IREAD-3, as the phonics items will now be read aloud by the testing application, rather than the test examiner.
 - Students with text-to-speech (TTS) accommodations need headphones/earbuds for all ILEARN assessments.
 - The sound check tool should be used to test functionality of headphones/earbuds prior to starting a test.
- **“Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) Policy:** The Department approves the use of BYOD for AIR assessments. Please note the following requirements:
 - Device and operating system must be supported by AIR for testing.
 - Secure Browser must be installed on the device.
 - Chromebooks must be in kiosk mode to access the Secure Browser.
Note: Chromebooks manufactured in 2017 or later require Enterprise or Educational licensing to utilize kiosk mode.
 - Students must participate in the secure practice test using the device being used for operational testing.
- **Availability of Manuals:** All AIR test manuals, including the Test Coordinator Manual (TCM) and Test Administration Manuals (TAMs), will only be available digitally. Print manuals will not be shipped, nor available for order. Schools may print TAMs or portions of TAMs for test administration, or access them digitally when administering tests using the administrator’s device.

Technology Resources and Support:

Additional information, training modules, and resources, including a link to the Released Items Repository, can be accessed in the Indiana Portal at <https://ilearn.portal.airast.org>.

AIR Indiana Help Desk:

- Email: airindianahelpdesk@air.org
- Phone: 866-298-4256