



Board of Education

TO: West Chicago District 33 Board of Education
FROM: Director of Assessment & Accountability, Cathy Park
DATE: March 13, 2025
RE: IAR State Testing Update

This memo is:

- ☒ Information only.
☐ Information with a recommendation and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: _____

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- ☐ in previous Board packet(s) dated. _____
☐ or attached to this memo

Basic information:
Every year, students in grades 3-8 take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) test which is the yearly state assessment in Reading and Math. This year, the Illinois State Board of Education moved to a new platform to administer the test for the students. We started IAR testing on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. All students were placed into groups for testing. When preparing for the test, Pearson stated that all students can have access to accessibility features for all of the tests. One feature was the text-to-speech function for the Math and Science test. It was shared that this accessibility feature was embedded in the test. However, when we started day one of testing, we noticed that the students didn't have this feature embedded in the Math test. After calling the state, we found out that we had to set up the text-to-speech feature for all students. Due to a setup error, several students in grades 3-5 in Gary, Turner, and Wegner were not able to get the accessibility feature of "Text to Speech" on the Math test. This means that students were not able to get the test question read to them before answering the question if they wanted that option.
We understand that this has potential impacts on our students and their performance on the assessment. The Math and Science tests are not assessments that assess students on their reading skills, but rather their knowledge of Math and Science concepts. Outside of the state assessments, we do take the NWEA MAP test 3 times a year, which shows how our students do throughout the year, so we have additional data in Math. On this test, our students do have the option of "Text to Speech".
Background or historical information:
Historically, all students have had the option to get the test read to them when taking the IAR Math Test. This feature is also available for our 5th and 8th grade students taking the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA). This is also an option available for students when taking the NWEA MAP test as well.
Previous decisions, actions, or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:
Recommendations:

Other questions? What else does the Board wish to know?: