



River Forest  
Public Schools

**Administration Building**

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## MEMO

Date: 3/29/2021

To: Dr. Ed Condon, *Superintendent*

From: Dr. Alison Hawley, *Director of Curriculum and Instruction*

RE: Revised Spring Assessment Calendar 2020-21

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On February 22, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education issued a communication indicating that it would not provide a waiver for the federal ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) that would have suspended state standardized testing for the 2020-2021 school year. Previously, Dr. Carmen Ayala, Illinois State Superintendent of Education, in partnership with District and school leaders across the State, had urged the U.S. Department of Education to suspend testing this year. Dr. Ayala pointed to health, economic, and educational inequities exacerbated by the global pandemic, as well as the need to prioritize students' social emotional health over testing accountability measures.

In response, Dr. Ayala shared with District Superintendents that she would push forward with requesting the "maximum flexibility" afforded to schools and intended to advocate for the State to do the following:

- Waive the Illinois School Report Card Summative Designations for the 2020-2021 school year
- Waive the 95% student participation requirement
- Provide an extended, more flexible window to administer standardized testing

On Friday, March 5, 2021 the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) sent the *Spring 21 Testing Options Survey* to all school Superintendents asking school districts to commit to either a Spring or a Fall testing window by Friday, March 12, 2021. After reviewing the cost and benefits of testing students in the Spring versus the Fall, District 90 opted to continue with Spring testing. Keeping the Fall free from state mandated assessments will allow District 90 to prioritize the social and emotional needs of students, address any trauma incurred by the pandemic, and focus on providing supportive, responsive school communities.

The decision to proceed with Spring standardized testing eliminates testing challenges for next Fall and the impact testing would have on students returning to school. However, it does require an intensive testing schedule for the months of April and May for K-8 students. Each school's assessment team worked to revise the Spring Assessment Calendar with an eye toward balancing the mandated testing requirements with maintaining the integrity of instructional time to the greatest extent possible.

Below are the revised Spring 2021 Assessment Calendars for Lincoln and Willard Elementary and Roosevelt Middle School. The testing windows established for the elementary and middle schools reflect the unique circumstances related to student schedules and configuration of facilities. Families are encouraged to contact their principal for any testing related questions. Each building maintains its own schedule of specific testing dates and times for each grade level. The Spring 2021 Assessment Calendars will also be posted on the District 90 website.

**Lincoln Elementary and Willard Elementary - Spring Assessment Calendar 2021**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Testing Window</b>
ACCESS for English language learners	K - 4	March 15 – March 30
Silicon Valley Math Initiative	4	April 26 – May 7
Illinois Assessment of Readiness	3 & 4	April 26 – May 7
Aimsweb Plus	K - 2	May 10 – May 14
Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)	3 & 4	May 17 – May 21

**Roosevelt Middle School - Spring Assessment Calendar 2021**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Testing Window</b>
ACCESS for English language learners	5 - 8	March 15 – March 30
Silicon Valley Math Initiative	5	April 26 – May 7
Illinois Science Assessment	5 & 8	May 26
Illinois Assessment of Readiness	5 - 8	May 24 – May 28
Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)	5 - 8	May 21