

## **Instruction**

### **Student Testing and Assessment Program** <sup>1</sup>

The District student assessment program provides information for determining individual student achievement and instructional needs, curriculum and instruction effectiveness, and school performance measured against District student learning objectives and statewide norms.

The Superintendent or designee shall manage the student assessment program that, at a minimum:

1. Administers to students all standardized assessments required by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) and/or any other appropriate assessment methods and instruments, including norm and criterion-referenced achievement tests, aptitude tests, proficiency tests, and teacher-developed tests.
2. Informs students of the timelines and procedures applicable to their participation in every State assessment. <sup>2</sup>
3. Provides each student's parents/guardians with the results or scores of each State assessment and an evaluation of the student's progress. See policy 6:280, *Grading and Promotion*. <sup>3</sup>
4. Utilizes professional testing practices. <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> State and federal law control this policy's content. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(b) requires the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) to "establish the academic standards that are to be applicable to students who are subject to State assessments." It contains the schedule for assessing students by calendar year and grade. Further information on ISBE assessments is available at: [www.isbe.net/Pages/Assessment.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Assessment.aspx).

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c), amended by P.A. 103-204, requires that the assessment administered by ISBE for the purpose of student application to or admissions consideration by institutions of higher education be administered on a school day during regular student attendance hours. Student profile information collected by the assessment must also be made available to Illinois public institutions of higher education in a timely manner. *Id.*

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(d) contains the requirements for assessing students receiving special education services and students determined to be English learners.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(e) requires that student assessment scores be made available to parents/guardians. Scores attained by a student on a final accountability assessment (grades 9 through 12) must be placed in the student's permanent record. *Id.* and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §375.10. Scores received on state assessments administered in kindergarten through grade 8 must be placed in the student's temporary record. *Id.*

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-10(b) requires ISBE to annually assess all public school students entering kindergarten using a common observational assessment tool, unless ISBE determines that a student is otherwise exempt. However, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-15, added by P.A. 102-875 and amended by P.A. 103-946, prohibits ISBE from requiring a *standardized assessment* for students enrolled or preparing to enroll in pre-K through grade 2. *Standardized assessment* does not include the observational assessment tool for students entering kindergarten, and ISBE may still require assessments used only for *diagnostic and screening purposes*, to determine if individual students need remedial instruction, special education, early intervention, bilingual education, dyslexia services, advanced academic programs as defined in 105 ILCS 5/14A-17, or other related educational services. *Id.* The law does not prohibit districts or teachers from administering an assessment for an individual classroom, grade level, or group of grade levels in any subject area in pre-K through grade 2, nor does it limit a district's ability to evaluate students for special education services under federal law or to annually assess the English proficiency of English learners under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. *Id.* at (d), (e), and (f), added by P.A. 102-875.

<sup>2</sup> Required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c), amended by P.A. 102-204.

<sup>3</sup> 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(e) and 5/2-3.64a-10(c) requires districts to provide State assessment results/scores to students' parents/guardians. The second part of this provision is optional and may be deleted, i.e., "~~and an evaluation of the student's progress.~~"

<sup>4</sup> 105 ILCS 5/2-3.107; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.30(b).

Overall student assessment data on tests required by State law will be aggregated by the District and reported, along with other information, on the District's annual report card.<sup>5</sup> All reliable assessments administered by the District and scored by entities outside of the District must be (1) reported to ISBE on its form by the 30th day of each school year, and (2) made publicly available to parents/guardians of students.<sup>6</sup> Board policy 7:340, *Student Records*, and its implementing procedures govern recordkeeping and access issues.<sup>7</sup>

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.  
105 ILCS 10/, Illinois School Student Records Act.  
105 ILCS 5/2-3.63, 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/2-3.64a-10, 5/2-3.64a-15, 5/2-3.107, 5/2-3.153, 5/10-17a, 5/22-82, and 5/27-1.  
23 Ill. Admin. Code §§1.30(b) and 375.10.

CROSS REF.: 6:15 (School Accountability), 6:280 (Grading and Promotion), 7:340 (Student Records)

APPROVED:

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<sup>5</sup> Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-17a, amended by P.A.s 103-116 and 103-263. School districts must annually, no more than 30 days after receipt from the State Superintendent release their district's and schools' report cards assessing the performance of its schools and students. Districts must: (1) present the report cards at a regular Board meeting, (2) post them on the District's website, (3) make them available to a newspaper of general circulation serving the District, and (4) upon request, send them home to parents/guardians. 105 ILCS 5/10-17a(5). The school report card must describe, among other items, student characteristics, curriculum information, student outcomes and progress, and school environment. The environment report must include indicators from the *school climate survey* approved under 105 ILCS 5/2-3.153 (requires ISBE, in addition to its default school climate survey, to identify two or three alternative school survey instruments from which districts may select). For further information regarding school report card requirements, see sample policy 6:15, *School Accountability*, at f/n 7.

<sup>6</sup> 105 ILCS 5/22-82 requires every school district to report to ISBE for each of its schools, by the 30th day of each school year, all reliable assessments the district administers that are scored by entities outside of the district. The district must make the report on an ISBE-provided form.

Each school must also make this information publicly available to the parents and guardians of its students through the district's Internet website or distribute the information in paper form. *Id.* at (b). See sample exhibit 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*. Although not required by law, if a board wants to direct that this information be shared more broadly with the public for greater transparency, add "and to the community" after "parents/guardians of students."

<sup>7</sup> 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(e) governs recording assessment results in school student records. See f/n 1, above.