

ISBE Student Assessment Science Overview for 2012

ISAT Science

The 2012 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) will be given March 5-March 16, 2012. The science portion, given to 4th and 7th grade students, will contain 82 multiple-choice items given in two, 45-minute sessions. Students are given up to 10 extra minutes, beyond the 45 minutes, if they are actively engaged in testing.

Thirty items from the SAT 10 and 52 Illinois-developed items comprise the science portion of ISAT. All items align to the Illinois Assessment Framework (IAF) which can be found at www.isbe.net/assessment. Sample ISAT items can be found at www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/sample_books.htm. The sample items are also available in an interactive format and can be found on the same website.

Pearson is the contractor for the ISAT, Linguistically Modified (LM) ISAT and the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA). Pearson staff members work with ISBE and Illinois educators to develop the test items.

Preliminary scores from the 2012 ISAT will be available online to district superintendents by June 1, 2012. Paper copies of the final scores are sent to districts in August. The science scores reflect achievement in the following standards: 11A and 11B, 12A and 12B, 12C and 12D, 12E and 12F, and 13A and 13B. The *Item Analysis Summary*, one of the reports sent to schools, identifies the objectives from the Illinois Assessment Framework which were tested on ISAT.

PSAE Science

The 2012 Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) will be given April 24-25 (Tues-Wed), 2012 to all high school juniors. The make-up session will be given May 8-9 (Tues-Wed). Day 1 of the PSAE includes the ACT Science Test and Day 2 includes the Illinois-Developed Science Test. Each test contains 40 multiple-choice items and the test results of each portion are combined to create the PSAE Science score.

The ACT Science Test includes many items that require students to use science inquiry (Standard 11A) skills and strategies. Sample items can be found at www.actstudent.org/testprep/index.html. Sample items for the Illinois-developed test, which aligns to Standards 11B, 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, 12E, 12F, 13A and 13B, can be found at www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm.

The process for developing test items for the Illinois-developed portion of the PSAE is the same as described above for ISAT. Illinois educators write and review the items that appear on the test.

Note: Science scores are not used in the calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Only reading and math scores are used for AYP. Questions concerning the state science assessments should be directed to Pam Stanko, pstanko@isbe.net, at the Illinois State Board of Education.