Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP):

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question	Response
General	
Does this replace the Iowa Assessments?	The ISASP will be used for state and federal student accountability purposes beginning with the 2018-19 school year.
Are the Iowa Assessments still available?	Yes, the Iowa Assessments will still be offered for administration in Iowa, and may be continued to be used for a number of purposes (Social Studies, ACT predictions, primary grades, off-grade Science, longitudinal studies).
Will the test be offered online or paper-and-pencil?	Yes, tests will be offered online and in paper-and-pencil format.
Have the upcoming training dates been set yet?	Test Administrator Training is scheduled from 1-3 p.m. on December 5 and December 6, 2018. The webinar will be recorded and made available on the ISASP portal for viewing on-demand afterwards.
Is there a specific date that has been shared from ISASP for samples that will be added to the site?	Sample tests should be available on December 12, 2018.
Planning	
Do we have to administer the test online?	Our goal is to move to 100 percent online testing for all districts and schools. It is possible some schools will not be ready to make this transition right away. Therefore, paper and pencil tests will be available at an additional cost during this transition.
Will districts be able to choose when to administer the ISASP?	Yes, districts may administer the ISASP any time between March 1 and May 30, 2019.
Do I have to be a 1-to-1 district (or school) to administer the ISASP online?	No, the ISASP may be given online in a laboratory (or similar) environment.
Administrators are seeking advice for scheduling purposes; what is the duration of time that should be allotted for each test and how many days would then be required, contingent on the particular school building and class schedules (e.g. block of 88 mins vs. 44 min. sections).	The tests were designed so that the typical student would finish the test within the timeframes provided in this bulletin.
How long are the paper versions of the test being planned for? Will it be on-going or just for the first year?	Paper and pencil versions of the tests will be available each year. The expectation is that districts will move toward online test administration.
If schools choose to give the paper/pencil version of the test, will district staff be expected to digitalize the answers for scoring purposes?	No. Paper and pencil versions of the tests will be administered with scannable answer documents, in which students will be able to provide their responses. All materials will then be returned to Pearson for scoring.

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Is March a realistic starting date if we are learning ourselves during the month of January and then trying to train teachers and students on the assessment during February?	The tests may be administered at any time between March 4 and May 31, 2019.
Our district has a high rate of students moving in and moving out, such that our enrollment can change weekly. How close to our testing window will we be able to update our student registrations?	Student registrations may be updated continuously up to and through the testing window. For students taking the test via paper-and-pencil, there will be "cut-off dates," based on when your district will begin testing, which will determine which students receive barcode labels. It is recommended that student registrations be entered in the system well in advance of the opening of the testing window in the school so that the use of barcode labels is maximized. In addition, provisions will be made for late additions of students in the system when the testing window opens.
The state is doing the student upload. How will students who are home schooled, and are wanting to participate in the test as a courtesy be enrolled for testing? This would be students who are Independent Private Instruction and don't necessarily have a student ID with the state?	The system will support the manual entry of students who need to test, including home-schooled students who test in districts, schools, or at an AEA. Testing locations will need to work with ITP to register students who do not have a state ID.
Why are we entering a testing window if the window is already set for March 4 - May 31? In large districts couldn't we spread out our testing over multiple (6-7) weeks?	For those choosing paper-and-pencil testing, we plan to pack and ship materials in three intervals, coinciding with the month in which testing first begins (e.g. we will ship materials in February for districts who plan to start testing in March). It is expected that all students could be tested via paper-and-pencil in 2-3 weeks. For online administration, it is expected that districts will designate a testing window which balances local technology constraints against the needs of maintaining test security. Within a wider overall district test window, test security best practices dictate shorter specific windows for specific grades or schools.
Will the paper version require a data file upload for barcode labels? If so, when does that need to take place?	The system will be pre-populated with student information your district uploaded to the SRI. This pre-populated student data will be used to create barcode labels. Labels are currently scheduled to be created using the data in the system as of January 18, 2019.
Will there be face-to-face training opportunities or will everything be online modules?	At this point, all training is expected to be delivered via remote technology ("webinars"), some of which will be conducted in real-time and some of which will be recorded and available for viewing on-demand.
Technology	
What devices/platforms will be supported for online testing?	Information about technical requirements may be found on the TestNav System Requirements on the TestNav 8 Online Support page (ISASP Portal (http://iowa.pearsonaccessnext.com) > Technology Setup > Technology Guidelines > Hardware and Software Requirements for TestNav 8).

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Can we offer the online test using iPads?	Yes, it may be possible to offer the test via iPads. Information may be found on the Set up TestNav on iOS on the TestNav 8 Online Support page (ISASP Portal (http://iowa.pearsonaccessnext.com) > Technology Setup > User Guides > Using TestNav 8 on an iPad).
Can we offer the online test using Chromebooks?	Yes, it may be possible to offer the test via Chromebooks. Information may be found on the Set up TestNav on Chrome OS on the TestNav 8 Online Support page (ISASP Portal (http://iowa.pearsonaccessnext.com) > Technology Setup > User Guides > Using TestNav 8 on a Chromebook).
Can we offer the online test in a "Bring-Your-Own-Device" environment?	"Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD") is not recommended. A BYOD environment introduces a number of concerns from the perspectives of security, network reliability, and student equity. It is highly unlikely that a BYOD environment can be satisfactorily managed to mitigate each of those concerns.
Can we offer tests on a mix of Apple and Microsoft systems?	Yes, it may be possible to offer the test via a mix of devices. Information may be found on the TestNav 8 Online Support page (ISASP Portal (http://iowa.pearsonaccessnext.com) > TestNav 8 Online Support (under Quick Links)).
Do you have a date the practice tests will be open? I thought I heard November 1st but I am still unable to access them.	Sample tests should be available on the site by December 12.
How will student data be loaded into the system? SIF, Upload, By Classroom, By Grade?	The system will be pre-populated with student information your district uploaded to Student Reporting in Iowa Department collection system.
If a school missed getting a technology review, is there an opportunity to get that done either on site or remotely?	Districts and schools are continuing to conduct their own self-reviews, observing the guidelines posted by Pearson here: http://iowa.pearsonaccessnext.com/tech-setup/ The Full Local Infrastructure Trial is scheduled to begin January 28, 2019.
I am concerned that the ISASP testing platform may not have enough capacity to handle all of the concurrent users across the state. Will the state be assigning shorter testing windows to individual districts to help balance the load on the system?	ISASP's testing platform and servers are designed to accommodate as many concurrent Iowa users as may choose to test on any given date. Therefore, districts may choose any test administration window that falls between March 4 and May 31, 2019 of the school year. The state will not be assigning shorter testing windows to individual districts.
Costing	
What will be the costs to administer the online and/or paper-and-pencil version of the ISASP?	See the ISASP Costing Information bulletin on the Bulletins page of the ISASP Portal (ISASP Portal (http://iowa.pearsonaccessnext.com) > Bulletins > September 20, 2018).
Test Design	
What subjects and grades are included in the ISASP?	Mathematics in grades 3 through 11. English Language Arts (Reading, and Language and Writing) in grades 3 through 11. Science in grades 5, 8 and 10.

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How long are the tests expected to take?	Reading: approximately 60 minutes. Language and Writing: approximately 120 minutes. Mathematics: approximately 60 minutes. Science: approximately 60 minutes. These are recommended administration times, however, the tests are not timed tests.
As this is an untimed test, is there a way to pause the test if a student does not finish it during the initial set time?	No tests are timed. The online test system will continue to allow students to take each subject test (e.g. Reading or Mathematics) for as long as needed, and the paper-based directions include provisions for starting and stopping. Proctors may include a "soft break" (i.e. a pause within the session for a given test for students to stop, stretch, etc.) during test administration while maintaining test security as described in the Test Administration Manual. A long break is allowed if documented in a student's IEP or 504 Plan, also subject to maintaining test security.
Do students have to finish the test in one session or can it be paused until another day if a student needs that type of break?	Individual subject tests (e.g. Reading or Mathematics) may be paused for a soft break as described, but each test should be finished on the same day it was started unless specified otherwise in a student's IEP or 504 Plan and subject to maintaining test security.
Accessibility	
Will there be translated versions of the test(s)?	The mathematics and the science tests will be available in Spanish, in both online and paper-and-pencil formats. English Language Arts (Reading and Language and Writing) will not have a Spanish format.
Will there be braille versions of the tests?	Yes, there will be braille versions available for all the tests.
Will there be large print versions of the tests?	Yes, there will be large print versions available for all the tests.
What accommodations will be available for the online version of the ISASP?	A final list of accommodations/accessibility features are currently being identified. Additional details will be provided as they are available.
Will extra time be available for IEP/504 students?	The ISASP is not timed. All students should be afforded ample time to take each test in its entirety.
Will students be able to use speech to text assistive tech for the writing portion?	There are no provisions in the system to support students who wish to speak their answers.
How will VI students who take Large Print or Braille versions of the tests have their responses scored?	The proctor who administers the test is responsible for transcribing student responses into a scannable answer document.
Reporting	
When will test results be reported?	Test results are expected to be reported in September 2019 after the conclusion of the Standard Setting process.