



March 2019

Dear District 186 Families,

Our students take federally required assessments every spring. These assessments help us understand how our students are growing academically, compared to their peers across the state. The state uses this information to provide more support and resources to the schools in the greatest need. This March and April, our students will take two assessments: The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) in the months of March and April.

The **Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR)** is an online English language arts and math assessment for 3rd-8th grade students. The IAR is almost exactly the same this year as the PARCC assessment that students took last year, only slightly shorter. The Illinois Assessment of Readiness measures the same Illinois Learning Standards and includes the same high-quality test questions that teachers and students have become familiar with over the past four years. To learn more about the IAR testing format and content, you and your child may access **online practice tests** at <https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/>.

The **Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)** will also be administered in an online format to 5th, 8th, and high school biology students. ISA is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards for Science, and also incorporates the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This assessment challenges students to apply the scientific knowledge and skills gained in the classroom. The ISA represents Illinois' commitment to preparing all students for college and careers, including the high-demand science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

As you work with your child and his or her school to prepare for these assessments, please know that our ultimate goal is to ensure that all students build upon their skills each year and show growth. The information we received from students' **Fall and Winter NWEA MAP tests** also helps us plan instruction that supports your child(ren) in realizing growth toward mastery of the standards, which also shows evidence of their college and career readiness.

We encourage you to reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher(s) with any questions you may have about preparing your child(ren) for the IAR, ISA, and/or his or her academic growth overall. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to your child's academic success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Gales".

Dr. Nicole Nash Gales
District Data and Testing Coordinator
Teaching and Learning Department
Springfield Public Schools



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