



April 2019

Dear District 186 Families,

We would like to take this opportunity to share information about the upcoming Illinois Science Assessment (ISA). Your child(ren)'s school will share the exact testing dates on their school websites, in their school newsletters, and by other forms of school-specific communication.

Students enrolled in high school biology AND those students who do not have a full credit of biology will take this Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) science exam. This includes students who were enrolled in a biology class last year and failed one or both semesters.

***Therefore, students who took this science assessment last year and did not pass the course will take the ISBE science assessment again.***

The Illinois Science Assessment will be administered in an online format and is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards for Science incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). These standards include knowledge and skills related to Earth and Space Sciences; Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science; Life Science; and Physical Science. The assessment will take place in one (1) session.

As you talk with your child as he or she prepares for this assessment, please know that our ultimate goal is to ensure that all students build upon their skills each year so they are prepared for success after high school. No test provides a complete picture of student performance. ISA is one indicator of your child's academic growth and progress. Classroom teachers are the experts about what your children know and can do according to course expectations. We encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher(s) with any questions you may have about preparing your child for the ISA and/or his or her academic progress on other assessments or assignments.

Please feel free to contact us at 217-525-3011 or your child's school with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to your child's academic growth and success.

Sincerely,

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

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

