



March 2020

Dear District 186 Families,

Our students take federally required state assessments every spring. These assessments help us understand how our students are growing academically in comparison to their peers across the state. Our state also uses these test results as one piece of 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).

The **Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR)** is an online English language arts and math assessment for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The IAR, which is the former PARCC assessment, measures students' mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards. 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students this year. 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. To learn more about the ISA test, please visit <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-Science-Assessment.aspx>.

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.

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(ren)'s academic success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicole Nash Moody, Coordinator  
Assessment and School Improvement  
Teaching and Learning Department  
Springfield Public Schools