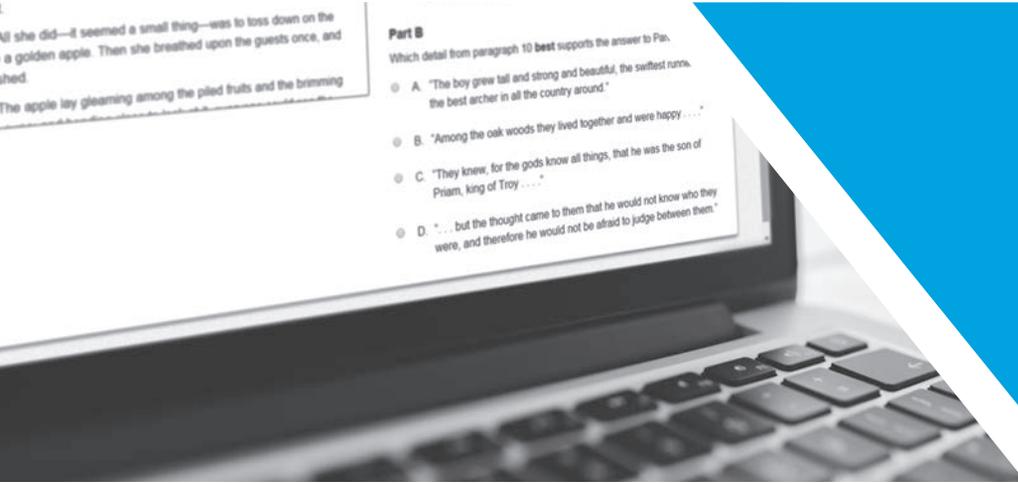


Spring/Fall 2021



ILLINOIS
Assessment of Readiness



Illinois Assessment of Readiness Score Report Interpretation Guide For Parents

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1.0 General Information for Parents and Educators

1.1 Background

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) assesses progress of students in grades 3-8 in meeting the Illinois Learning Standards in English language arts and mathematics.

1.2 IAR Assessment

The primary purpose of the IAR is to allow students to demonstrate what they know and can do in math and English language arts; assist educators in supporting student learning; make use of technology in assessments, and advance accountability at all levels; and provide a measure of college and career readiness for students.

The Spring/Fall 2021 Illinois Assessment of Readiness was administered in either computer-based or paper-based format. English language arts/literacy (ELA/L) assessments focused on writing effectively when analyzing text. Mathematics assessments focused on applying skills and concepts, understanding multi-step problems that require abstract reasoning, and modeling real-world problems with precision, perseverance, and strategic use of tools. In both content areas, students also demonstrated their acquired skills and knowledge by answering selected-response items and fill-in-the-blank items.

1.3 Confidentiality of Reporting Results

Individual student performance results on the IAR are confidential and may be released only in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g). Aggregated student performance data are made available to the public and do not contain the names of individual students or teachers.

1.4 Purpose of this Guide

This guide provides information on the individual student reports, school reports, and district reports provided for IAR results. Section 2.0, which outlines and explains elements of the individual student report, may be shared with parents. This section will help parents understand their child's test results. Section 3.0 outlines and explains elements of the school and district reports. Individual state policies and calculations for accountability reporting may differ from the policies and calculations used for assessment reports.

Sample reports included in this guide are for illustration purposes only. They are provided to show the basic layout of the reports and the information they provide. Sample reports do not include actual data from any test administration.

2.0 Understanding the Illinois Assessment of Readiness Individual Student Report (ISR)

2.1 Types of Scores on the IAR Individual Student Report

Student performance on the IAR is described on the individual student report using scale scores, performance levels, and subclaim performance indicators. State average results are included in relevant sections of the report to help parents understand how their child's performance compares to that of other students.

2.1.1 Scale Score

A scale score is a numerical value that summarizes student performance. Not all students respond to the same set of test items, so each student's raw score (actual points earned on test items) is adjusted for the slight differences in difficulty among the various forms and administrations of the test. The resulting scale score allows for an accurate comparison across test forms and administration years within a grade or course and content area. IAR reports provide overall scale scores for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, which determine a student's performance level. IAR scale scores range from 650 to 850 for all tests. Additionally, IAR English language arts/literacy reports provide separate scale scores for both Reading and Writing. IAR Reading scale scores range from 10 to 90, and IAR Writing scale scores range from 10 to 60.

For example, a student who earns an overall scale score of 800 on one form of the grade 8 mathematics assessment would be expected to earn an overall scale score of 800 on any other form of the grade 8 mathematics assessment. Furthermore, the student's overall scale score and level of mastery of concepts and skills would be comparable to a student who took the same assessment the previous year or following year.

2.1.2 Performance Level

Each performance level is a broad, categorical level defined by a student's overall scale score and is used to report overall student performance by describing how well students met the expectations for their grade level/course. Each performance level is defined by a range of overall scale scores for the assessment. There are five performance levels for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness:

- Level 5: Exceeded expectations
- Level 4: Met expectations
- Level 3: Approached expectations
- Level 2: Partially met expectations
- Level 1: Did not yet meet expectations

Students performing at levels 4 and 5 met or exceeded expectations, have demonstrated readiness for the next grade level/course and, ultimately, are likely on track for college and careers. Additional information pertaining to the test performance levels can be found in Appendix A.

Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) describe the knowledge, skills, and practices that students should know and be able to demonstrate at each performance level in each content area (ELA/L and mathematics), and at each grade level/course. PLDs are available at <https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/reporting/>.

2.1.3 Subclaim Performance Indicators

Subclaim performance indicators for the IAR are reported using graphical representations that indicate how the student performed relative to the overall performance of students who met or nearly met expectations for the content area.

Subclaim performance is reported using categories rather than scale scores or performance levels.

- Higher level readiness - represented by the letter H **H**
- Middle level readiness - represented by the letter M **M**
- Lower level readiness - represented by the letter L **L**

2.2 Sample ISR (ELA/L)



A FIRSTNAME M. LASTNAME

Date of Birth: 03/30/2006 ID: EL07040033 **Grade: 7**
 SAMPLE DISTRICT NAME
 SAMPLE SCHOOL ONE NAME
 ILLINOIS
 SPRING/FALL 2021

B

GRADE 7 ELA

English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment Report, 2020–2021

Illinois Learning Standards describe the skills, content knowledge, and critical thinking abilities that students need at each grade level to be on track for college and career readiness at the end of high school. The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) estimates how successfully FIRSTNAME is keeping pace with Illinois Learning Standards.

C

Visit the IL Parent Portal at <https://il-results.pearsonaccessnext.com> and use the following code to access your child's performance results online.

What Do Scores Mean?

The State Board of Education has divided IAR scores into five proficiency levels to describe current learning:

- Ask your teachers for examples of the skills and critical thinking abilities that are characteristic of different proficiency levels in 7th grade language arts/literacy.
- For a wider range of examples, visit <https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/reporting>.

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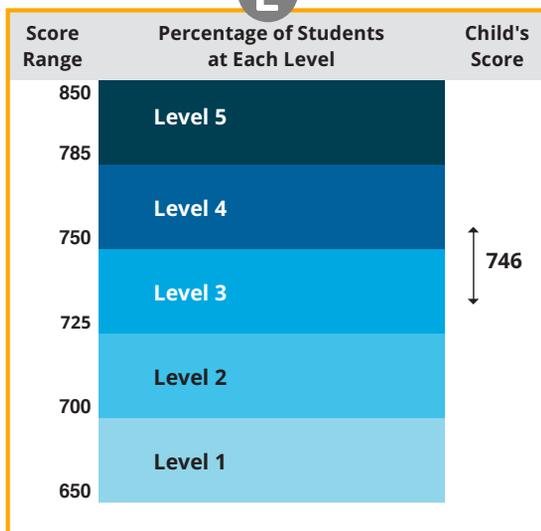
D

How Can I Use This Report?

Ask your teachers:

- What does this report say about my child's current strengths and challenges in language arts and literacy?
- What will teachers be doing this year to help my child make strong progress?
- What can we do at home to help my child make strong progress this year?

E



F

Your Child's Score

FIRSTNAME achieved a 7th grade score of **746** on the 2021 IAR. This score estimates current levels of academic skill and knowledge and current ability to apply that learning to new academic tasks. Higher scores normally reflect a stronger range of language arts/literacy knowledge and greater ability to apply that knowledge to more complex academic tasks and problems.

It is important to remember that your child's IAR score is an **estimate** of their current learning. Your child's score might be as much as **12.3** points higher or lower. This is the amount of change that would be expected in your child's score if he/she were to take the test many times. Small differences in scores should not be overinterpreted.

It is important to remember that past performance does not determine future academic growth and success. High quality education and student effort and engagement help shape future performance.

Student Growth Percentile **G**

A student growth percentile compares your child's academic growth with the growth of other Illinois students over time. A growth percentile of 50 is average. Growth percentiles above 50 indicate greater-than-average progress. Growth percentiles below 50 indicated less-than-average progress.

Your child's score this year is the same as or better than 43 percent of Illinois students who had a similar score to your child on the assessment in a previous year(s).

A CLOSER LOOK AT FIVE AREAS OF READING AND WRITING READINESS **H**

To stay on track for college and career readiness, students need to learn a wide range of skills, content knowledge, and critical-thinking abilities at every grade level. Often, these develop at different rates because of differences in the curricular priorities of individual teachers and schools, differences in students' interests and out-of-school experiences, and many other factors.

The IAR describes readiness in five areas of reading and writing by placing your child's performance at either the **H-Higher, M-Middle, or L-Lower** level of the range for each area. Knowing your child's performance in critical content domains enables you to have a more effective conversation with your child's teachers to support future academic growth.

H For **Higher** level readiness estimates, ask your teacher(s) how your child can be challenged to build even deeper strengths both in school and at home.

M For **Middle** level readiness estimates, ask your teacher(s) how your child can be helped to exceed in this area through work at school and activities at home.

L For **Lower** level readiness estimates, ask your teacher(s) about the additional supports your child needs at school to meet grade-level expectations and what resources are available to help you support your child at home.

J Students who are ready in these five areas are successfully:

H LITERARY TEXT

Reading and analyzing fiction, drama, and poetry

L INFORMATIONAL TEXT

Reading and analyzing non-fiction, history, science, and the arts

H VOCABULARY

Using experience, context and analysis to determine what words mean

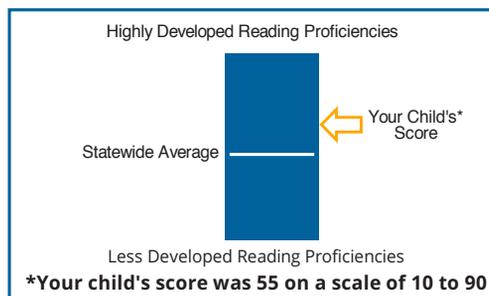
M WRITTEN EXPRESSION

Composing well-developed writing from what students have read

M KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

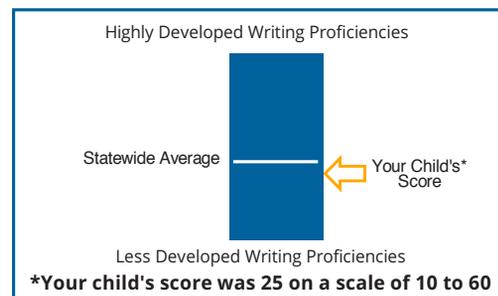
Composing writing using the rules of standard English

OVERALL READING



K

OVERALL WRITING



L

2.3 Sample ISR (Mathematics)



A **FIRSTNAME M. LASTNAME**

Date of Birth: 12/31/2006 ID: MA08040042 **Grade: 7**
 SAMPLE DISTRICT NAME
 SAMPLE SCHOOL ONE NAME
 ILLINOIS
 SPRING/FALL 2021

GRADE 7 MATH

B Mathematics Assessment Report, 2020–2021

Illinois Learning Standards describe the skills, content knowledge, and critical thinking abilities that students need at each grade level to be on track for college and career readiness at the end of high school. The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) estimates how successfully FIRSTNAME is keeping pace with Illinois Learning Standards.

C Visit the IL Parent Portal at <https://il-results.pearsonaccessnext.com> and use the following code to access your child's performance results online. **C7BnWq2HcLYr**

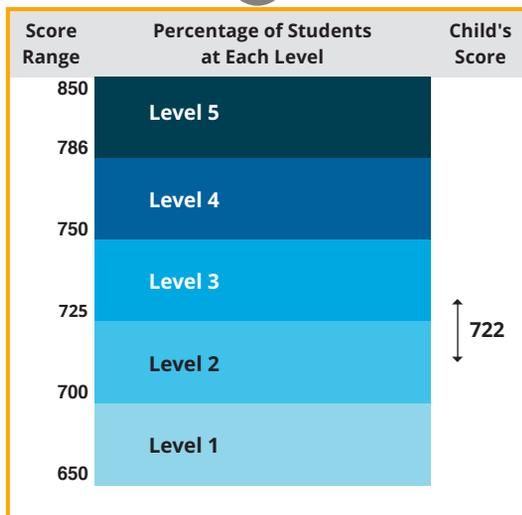
What Do Scores Mean?

The State Board of Education has divided IAR scores into five proficiency levels to describe current learning:

- Ask your teachers for examples of the skills and critical thinking abilities that are characteristic of different proficiency levels in 7th grade mathematics.
- For a wider range of examples, visit <https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/reporting>.

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E



D How Can I Use This Report?

Ask your teachers:

- What does this report say about my child's current strengths and challenges in mathematics?
- What will teachers be doing this year to help my child make strong progress?
- What can we do at home to help my child make strong progress this year?

F Your Child's Score

FIRSTNAME achieved a 7th grade score of **722** on the 2021 IAR. This score estimates current levels of academic skill and knowledge and current ability to apply that learning to new academic tasks. Higher scores normally reflect a stronger range of mathematics knowledge and greater ability to apply that knowledge to more complex academic tasks and problems.

It is important to remember that your child's IAR score is an **estimate** of their current learning. Your child's score might be as much as **9.1** points higher or lower. This is the amount of change that would be expected in your child's score if he/she were to take the test many times. Small differences in scores should not be overinterpreted.

It is important to remember that past performance does not determine future academic growth and success. High quality education and student effort and engagement help shape future performance.

Understanding the IAR Individual Student Report (ISR)

Student Growth Percentile **G**

A student growth percentile compares your child's academic growth with the growth of other Illinois students over time. A growth percentile of 50 is average. Growth percentiles above 50 indicate greater-than-average progress. Growth percentiles below 50 indicated less-than-average progress.

Your child's score this year is the same as or better than 43 percent of Illinois students who had a similar score to your child on the assessment in a previous year(s).

A CLOSER LOOK AT FOUR AREAS OF MATHEMATICS READINESS **H**

To stay on track for college and career readiness, students need to learn a wide range of skills, content knowledge, and critical-thinking abilities at every grade level. Often, these develop at different rates because of differences in the curricular priorities of individual teachers and schools, differences in students' interests and out-of-school experiences, and many other factors.

The IAR describes readiness in five areas of reading and writing by placing your child's performance at either the **H-Higher, M-Middle, or L-Lower** level of the range for each area. Knowing your child's performance in critical content domains enables you to have a more effective conversation with your child's teachers to support future academic growth.

I

H For **Higher** level readiness estimates, ask your teacher(s) how your child can be challenged to build even deeper strengths both in school and at home.

M For **Middle** level readiness estimates, ask your teacher(s) how your child can be helped to exceed in this area through work at school and activities at home.

L For **Lower** level readiness estimates, ask your teacher(s) about the additional supports your child needs at school to meet grade-level expectations and what resources are available to help you support your child at home.

J **Students who are ready in these four areas are successfully:**

L MAJOR CONTENT
Solving problems involving proportional relationships, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing with rational numbers, and linear expressions, equations, and inequalities

M EXPRESSING MATHEMATICAL REASONING
Creating and justifying logical mathematical solutions and analyzing and correcting the reasoning of others

H ADDITIONAL & SUPPORTING CONTENT
Solving problems involving circumference, area, surface area, volume, statistics, and probability

M MODELING & APPLICATION
Solving real-world problems, representing and solving problems with symbols, reasoning quantitatively, and strategically using appropriate tools

Understanding the IAR Individual Student Report (ISR)

2.4 Description of Individual Student Reports

2.4.1 General Information

A. Identification Information

An Individual Student Report lists the student's name, date of birth, state student ID, grade level when assessed, district name, school name, and state. The grade level when assessed is also shown in a box on the left side of the report.

B. Description of Report

The description of the report provides the grade level assessed, content area (English language arts/literacy or mathematics) assessed, and assessment year. It also provides a general overview of the assessment and score report.

C. Parent Portal

The Individual Student Reports include information for parents to access student reports and report explanation videos via the IL Parent Portal. The Parent Portal can be accessed at <https://il-results.pearsonaccessnext.com>. The ISR Parent Portal section includes an access code needed to enter the site.

D. How to Use the Report

This section provides guidance for how parents can use the report to start a discussion with their child's teacher(s). It is important for parents and educators to have regular check-ins to ensure students are learning the necessary skills to stay on track. Parents can use the information in the report to understand their child's strengths and needs and to work with educators to identify resources to support his or her education.

2.4.2 Overall Assessment Scores

E. Graphical Representation of Overall Performance: Overall Scale Score and Performance Level

This graphic provides an illustration of the five performance levels and where the student's overall scale score is positioned along the performance scale. The student's score is indicated by the black triangle positioned along the range of overall scale scores that define each performance level. The ranges of overall scale scores are indicated underneath the graphic. The scale score needed to reach Performance Level 2 is 700, for Performance Level 3 it is 725, and for Performance Level 4 it is 750 for all grade levels in both ELA/L and mathematics. The scale score needed to reach Performance Level 5 varies. Refer to **Appendix A** for the full list of scale score ranges for each performance level.

F. Your Child's Score

This section of the report provides information related to your child's overall scale score as well as an estimate of expected changes to that score if he/she were to take the test many times.

G. Student Growth Percentile (SGP)

Student growth percentiles estimate individual student progress by tracking student scores from one year to the next. With a range of 1 to 99, higher numbers represent higher growth and lower numbers represent lower growth. In addition to performance levels, this information is being provided to help students, educators, and caregivers better understand student learning. Looking at both the SGP and the student's current score provides a more comprehensive picture of what the student learned from one year to the next.

Student growth percentiles compare a student's performance to that of his or her academic peers within the state. "Academic peers" are students in the state who took a similar assessment as the student in prior year(s) and achieved a similar score. The student growth percentile indicates the percentage of academic peers equal to or above whom the student scored higher.

On the wall in most pediatricians' offices, there is a growth chart for height and weight. This helps one to understand where a child stands relative to other children. For example, a child whose height falls in the 45th percentile is as tall as or taller than 45% of the children at this age. Student growth percentiles are interpreted similarly, but the measurement is in terms of growth. A student's test score in points may be below "met expectations", but that student may have high growth (improvement in score) relative to her or his academic peers. Conversely, a student with a high test score may not have a high student growth percentile if the student did not show as much improvement over time compared to her or his academic peers.

Student growth percentiles are useful for determining how a student is performing year to year. For example, if a student's total score in math changes from the prior year, is this meaningful or not? If the student's growth percentile is 50, then this student shows typical growth. A student growth percentile of 50 means this student is in the 50th percentile: 50% of students had less gain in scores over time, and 50% had a greater or no gain in scores over time.

Student growth percentiles are calculated using as much data as possible. Student growth is measured relative to academic peers with similar scores. For example, a student with scores in the "met expectations" category for grade 3 mathematics and grade 4 mathematics will have a percentile rank for this year's grade 5 mathematics assessment that is based on their growth relative to peers who scored similarly (met expectations) on the mathematics assessments in grades 3 and 4. If this student does not have a score for grade 3 mathematics, then the student growth percentile will be based on a score for one prior year. If this is the first year a student has participated in this assessment, a student growth percentile calculation is not possible.

Individual Student Reports for students in grade 3 and some students in grade 4 will not include student growth percentile, as these students did not participate in similar assessments in prior years.

2.4.3 Performance by Subclaim Category

H. Subclaim Category

Within each reporting category for English language arts/literacy are specific skill sets (subclaims) students demonstrate on the IAR. Subclaims are provided for mathematics but are not listed under reporting categories as they are for English language arts/literacy. Each subclaim category includes the header identifying the subclaim, an explanatory icon representing the student’s performance, and an explanation of whether the student has met the expectations of the subclaim.

I. Subclaim Performance Indicators

A student’s subclaim category represents how well the student performed in a subclaim. As with overall and reporting category scores, a measure of student proficiency for each subclaim is estimated on a common, underlying measurement scale. Performance in the Level 1–2 range of that scale is categorized as “Lower level readiness” performance in the Level 3 range is categorized as “Middle level readiness” and performance in the Level 4–5 range is categorized as “Higher level readiness.”

Subclaim performance is reported using categories rather than scale scores or performance levels.

- Higher level readiness - represented by the letter H 
- Middle level readiness - represented by the letter M 
- Lower level readiness - represented by the letter L 

J. Description of Subclaim Performance Indicator Graphics

Student performance for each subclaim is marked with a subclaim performance indicator.

- **The letter H** for the specified subclaim indicates that the student “demonstrated a higher level of readiness,” meaning that the student’s subclaim performance reflects a level of proficiency consistent with Performance Level 4 or 5. Students in this subclaim category are likely academically well prepared to engage successfully in further studies in the subclaim content area and may need instructional enrichment.
- **The letter M** for the specified subclaim indicates that the student “demonstrated a middle level of readiness,” meaning that the student’s subclaim performance reflects a level of proficiency consistent with Performance Level 3. Students in this subclaim category likely need academic support to engage successfully in further studies in the subclaim content area.
- **The letter L** for the specified subclaim indicates that the student “demonstrated a lower level of readiness,” meaning that the student’s subclaim performance reflects a level of proficiency consistent with Performance Level 1 or 2. Students in this subclaim category are likely not academically well prepared to engage successfully in further studies in the subclaim content area. Such students likely need instructional interventions to increase achievement in the subclaim content area.

2.4.4 Performance by Reporting Category

Note: For mathematics, reporting categories are not included. For this reason, there are no markers for J and K on the sample mathematics ISR.

K. Reporting Category

For English language arts/literacy, there are two reporting categories, Reading and Writing, indicated by a bold heading.

L. Performance by Reporting Category Scale Score

For the English language arts/literacy Individual Student Reports, student performance for each reporting category is provided as a scale score (refer to Section 2.1.1) on a scale different from the

Understanding the IAR Individual Student Report (ISR)

overall scale score. For this reason, the sum of the scale scores for each reporting category will not equal the overall scale score. For reference, this section includes scale scores for each reporting category (i.e., 10–90 for Reading and 10–60 for Writing).

As with the overall (or “summative”) scale scores, a measure of student proficiency in each reporting category is estimated on a common, underlying measurement scale. For reading, the Level 4 performance standard is set to a scale score of 50. For writing, the Level 4 performance standard is set to a scale score of 35. Thus, a student could be considered as meeting expectations in a claim by attaining 50 in reading or 35 in writing.