

SOUTH ELEMENTARY

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Throughout the state of Illinois, students in grades 5, 8 and 11 will begin taking the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) this Spring. The ISA aligns with our Illinois Learning Standards in science. This assessment helps families understand how well students are performing academically and see whether they are on track to succeed in college. The ISA represents Illinois' commitment to preparing all students for college and careers, including in the high-demand science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The assessment also satisfies federal accountability requirements.

The format of the ISA is designed that students do not simply select an answer and fill in the bubble of a multiple-choice test. Rather, the ISA pushes students to apply their knowledge when they give answers, thus better preparing them for higher education and a career. All students deserve the opportunity to demonstrate what they know; they get to see how knowledge is applied to real-life situations.

The ISA has three sections and is untimed. The average student time-on-task is estimated at 120 minutes. The results provide administrators with important data to help them make broad curriculum decisions at the school and district levels. But classroom educators will not use the results to make teaching adjustments year-to-year for individual students.

We encourage you to talk with your children about the importance of doing their best on the ISA, while communicating that the assessment yields only one piece of information about them and their school's progress. Students' attendance, classroom work, homework, projects, performance on local tests, participation in sports and extracurricular activities, and contributions to the school's climate and culture all help them grow and learn.

SOUTH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL TEST THE WEEK OF APRIL 11, 2022.

We all work together to ensure Illinois students build a cohesive understanding of science over time. Thank you for your role in developing lifelong learners and successful citizens.

Sincerely,

Tim Chipman