



A Community of Learners

Informational Memo: 2014 ISAT Update

TO: School Board
Trisha Kocanda, Superintendent

FROM: Alison Hawley, *Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment*

September 23, 2014

Overview & Background

In March of 2014, the Illinois Standard Achievement Test (ISAT) was administered, for the last time, to all students grades 3-8. The 2014 ISAT was designed to be 100% aligned to the Common Core State Standards for math and English language arts, up from 20% the previous year.

Update

The District's aggregate and individual results of 2014 ISAT testing were received this month. Parents will receive their child's results by month's end. In addition, the District has been analyzing the results to inform this year's instructional planning.

A comprehensive review of student assessment data will be presented at the October 21, 2014, School Board meeting. It is important to note, however, that results for grade 3 math were significantly lower than in previous years. An examination of the item analysis revealed that of the 65 test items on the assessment, 45 were related to content that had not yet been taught. The Common Core State Standards now requires that instruction of multiplication be shifted from the grade 4 curriculum to the grade 3 curriculum. Last year, the grade 3 scope and sequence organized this instruction to begin in March, as ISAT testing was being conducted or was just concluding. Multiplication was a major emphasis on the 2014 ISAT for grade 3. As a result, our students were presented with material that was not familiar to them.

Next Steps

A separate communication for parents of fourth grade students was created to proactively inform parents of the unexpected decrease in the 3rd grade ISAT math results. The letter will accompany the student ISAT score reports that all five schools will send home on Friday, September 26th.

It is difficult to determine what nationally normed standardized assessments will emphasize from one year to the next, and it is common for the test to be reconfigured in terms of the number of items within a specific content strand. However, it is likely that multiplication will remain a strong focus for the Partnership Assessment for Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Therefore, this year's 3rd grade math scope and sequence will include an early introduction of multiplication.