

Illinois Curriculum Matrix Summary

Illinois Assessment Framework

The Illinois Assessment Framework defines the content that will be assessed in the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE). The Framework contains assessment objectives at each grade level that align to the Illinois Learning Standards.

English Language Arts

The reading and writing English language arts ISAT is administered to all students in grades 3-8. The reading and writing PSAE is administered in grade 11.

Testing Priority Designation

Information necessary to make priority designations relative to the ISAT and PSAE reading and writing assessments was obtained from the Illinois Department of Education website. The *Illinois Reading Assessment Framework* and the *Illinois Writing Assessment Framework* within this site each contain content category tables. These tables disclose the relative emphasis devoted to each of the assessment objective categories. The number of test items per benchmark in each framework at each grade was averaged. Standard deviations (STD) were calculated for each grade level assessed and subtracted from the mean. This number established the cut-off point between Medium (M) priority designations and High (H) priority designations. All the assessment objectives are tested and therefore no Low (L) priority designations were assigned. The ISAT and PSAE English language arts priority designation results can be found in Table 1.

Table 1. English Language Arts Priority Designation Data

Grade	Mean	STD	Mean – STD	Designations		
				L = Low	M = Medium	H = High
3	2.18	1.57	0.51	0	1	>1
4	2.20	1.78	0.41	0	1	>1
5	2.27	1.45	0.82	0	1	>1
6	2.35	1.63	0.72	0	1	>1
7	2.27	1.48	0.79	0	1	>1
8	2.62	1.82	0.80	0	1	>1
11	43.04	1.81	1.23	0	1	>1

English language arts summary data are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. English Language Arts Assessment Data Summary

English Language Arts			ISAT/PSAE			NESS*		
Grade	Standards	Benchmarks	H	M	L	H 1-19	M 20-38	L 39-50
3	12	56	18	11	27	36	19	1
4	12	61	12	12	37	36	23	2
5	12	63	15	12	36	36	25	2
6	12	59	14	8	37	36	22	1
7	12	60	16	7	37	36	23	1
8	12	61	18	7	36	37	23	1
11	12	89	21	12	56	68	21	0
Totals	84	449	114	69	266	285	156	8

Mathematics

The mathematics ISAT is administered to all students in grades 3-8. The mathematics PSAE is administered in grade 11.

Testing Priority Designation

Information necessary to make priority designations relative to ISAT and PSAE mathematics assessments was obtained from the Illinois Department of Education website. The *Illinois Mathematics Assessment Framework – Grades 3-8* and the *Illinois Mathematics Assessment Framework – PSAE Grade 11* within this site each contain content category tables. These tables disclose the relative emphasis devoted to each of the assessment objective categories. The number of test items per benchmark in each framework at each grade was averaged. Standard deviations (STD) were calculated for each grade level assessed and subtracted from the mean. This number established the cut-off point between Medium (M) priority designations and High (H) priority designations. All the assessment objectives are tested and therefore no Low (L) priority designations were assigned. The ISAT and PSAE mathematics priority designation results can be found in Table 3.

Table 3. Mathematics Priority Designation Data

Grade	Mean	STD	Mean – STD	Designations		
				L = Low	M = Medium	H = High
3	1.77	.96	.81	0	1	>1
4	1.68	1.15	.53	0	1	>1
5	1.52	.75	.77	0	1	>1
6	1.55	.65	.90	0	1	>1
7	1.46	.61	.85	0	1	>1
8	1.60	.80	.80	0	1	>1
11	7.07	5.48	1.59	0	1-2	>2

Mathematics summary data are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Mathematics Assessment Data Summary

Mathematics			ISAT/PSAE			NESS*		
Grade	Standards	Benchmarks	H	M	L	H 1-16	M 17-42	L 43-70
3	18	42	19	17	6	23	16	3
4	18	48	16	22	10	27	18	3
5	18	55	13	29	13	31	21	3
6	18	55	20	22	13	32	21	2
7	18	58	17	27	14	35	21	2
8	18	57	17	26	14	31	25	1
11	18	81	30	7	44	38	33	10
Totals	126	396	132	150	114	217	155	24

Science

The science ISAT is administered to all students in grades 4 and 7. The science PSAE is administered in grade 11.

Testing Priority Designation

Information necessary to make priority designations relative to ISAT and PSAE science assessments was obtained from the Illinois Department of Education website. The *Illinois Science Assessment Framework – Grades 4 and 7* and the *Illinois Science Assessment Framework – PSAE Grade 11* within this site each contain content category tables. These tables disclose the relative emphasis devoted to each of the assessment objective categories. The number of test items per benchmark in each framework at each grade was averaged. Standard deviations (STD) were calculated for each grade level assessed and subtracted from the mean. This number established the cut-off point between Medium (M) priority designations and High (H) priority designations. All the assessment objectives are tested and therefore no Low (L) priority designations were assigned. The ISAT and PSAE science priority designation results can be found in Table 5.

Table 5. Science Priority Designation Data

Grade	Mean	STD	Mean – STD	Designations		
				L = Low	M = Medium	H = High
4	1.61	.98	.63	0	1	>1
7	1.28	.61	.67	0	1	>1
11	3.51*	1.38	3.51	0	1-4	>4

*Outliers were not used in this calculation.

Science summary data are presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Science Assessment Data Summary

Science			ISAT/PSAE			NESS*		
Grade	Standards	Benchmarks	H	M	L	H 1-32	M 33-50	L 51-85
4	10	72	20	26	26	42	10	20
7	10	125	11	39	75	69	19	37
11	10	123	24	11	88	67	19	37
Totals	30	320	55	76	189	178	48	94

Totals for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science

Table 7 presents the total number of benchmarks per discipline compared to the number of benchmarks per discipline tested. Using this data, the percentage of benchmarks tested was calculated for each discipline and the totals were combined for all three disciplines.

Table 7. Totals and Percentages for ELA, Mathematics, and Science

	Total # Benchmarks	# Benchmarks Tested	% Benchmarks Tested
ELA	449	183	40.8
Mathematics	396	286	72.3
Science	320	131	41.0
TOTALS	1165	600	51.5

References

Illinois Department of Education

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/>

Assessment

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/assessment/default.htm>

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/assessment/isat.htm>

Learning Standards

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/Default.htm>

***NESS (National Essential Skills Study)** in the preceding subject summary charts refers to the *International Center for Leadership in Education's* 2007-08 national survey, a forced-ranking by approximately 13,000 adults of the proficiencies deemed most important for high school graduates in each of English Language Arts, Math, and Science.

- English Language Arts proficiencies ranked 1-19 were assigned a High (H) rating; items ranked 20-38 were assigned a Medium (M) rating; and items ranked 39-50 were assigned a Low (L) rating.
- Math proficiencies ranked 1-16 were assigned a High (H) rating; items ranked 17-42 were assigned a Medium (M) rating; and items ranked 43-70 were assigned a Low (L) rating.
- Science proficiencies ranked 1-32 were assigned a High (H) rating; items marked 33-50 were assigned a Medium (M) rating; and items ranked 51-85 were assigned a Low (L) rating.

Where English Language Arts, Math, and Science proficiencies overlapped across indicators in other subjects (for example an English Language Arts proficiency within a Science indicator), the rating of H, M, or L was designated to the proficiency in the subject of focus. A complete description of the *National Essential Skills Study* is provided elsewhere in this resource kit.

