



# A Parent's Guide to High School Assessment

*Teaching & Learning - Office of Assessment*



Included in this guide is a list of assessments SD308 participates in according to grade level. The levels are divided between Elementary (grades K-5) and Secondary (grades 6-12). Along with a brief description of the assessment, you will find a calendar with a specific range of dates (Testing Window) that these assessments will be given to your child throughout the year. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to your student's teacher, counselor, or building administrator.

SD 308 participates in three types of assessments; State, National, and Local. **State Assessments** are required by the State of Illinois and are to be given to all students who qualify for either the subject or grade. **National Assessments** are not required by the state, however they are a critical prep for college preparedness and important for all students who qualify to be given the chance to participate. **Local Assessments** are not required by the State of Illinois and are approved by the Board of Education using district funds. We take great pride in using meaningful local assessments that not only allow us to see your child's progress throughout the year but to guide daily instruction so that we can maximize learning in the classroom.

With the push for online learning, many assessments have either gone to or have the option to administer tests online. We work very closely with the Technology Department to ensure that we are staying current on all assessments and the way they should be administered. Many hours are spent on the set up and logistics involved in providing both paper/pencil and online assessments to our students. We work in concert with buildings and other district departments/administrators to help us troubleshoot and learn better practices prior to testing so we can better support our students, teachers, and building administrators in regards to assessments.

As a parent, your child's success in school depends on your involvement and support at home. Please do:

- ❖ Take a moment to read through the assessments your child will be taking this school year.
- ❖ Note important dates on your home calendar or scheduler with a reminder so you will know when your child will be given an assessment.
- ❖ Speak to your child's teacher or building administrator prior to the assessment with any questions or concerns.
- ❖ Help ensure your child is well rested the night before and have eaten a nutritious breakfast to fuel them through the day.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions please contact your child's teacher or building administrator. We hope this guide will provide you with clear communication and understanding on Assessments in 308!

## High School Assessment Calendar

**\*\*Please note dates are subject to change at any time. Please check with your students building prior to testing for any updates.**

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## High School Assessment Calendar

\*\*Please note dates are subject to change at any time. Please check with your students building prior to testing for any updates.

January							1-4	Winter Break
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	7	First Day of <b><u>Fitness Testing</u></b> Window 2 (9-12)
		1	2	3	4	5	16	First Day of <b><u>ACCESS</u></b> (9-12)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	18	School Improvement Day (3.5 hour Student Attendance)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	Martin Luther King Day (District Closed)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30	31				
February							15	School Improvement Day (3.5 hour Student Attendance)
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	18	President’s Day (District Closed)
					1	2	19	Last Day of <b><u>ACCESS</u></b> (9-12)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28				
March							1	First Day of the <b><u>Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)</u></b> (H.S. Biology Students only)
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	8	School Improvement Day (3.5 hour Student Attendance)
					1	2	13	First Day of the <b><u>DLM</u></b> (11 <sup>th</sup> grade SPED students who qualify only)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	25-29	Spring Break (Students not in attendance)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
31								
April							1	Spring Break (Students not in attendance)
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	2	Teacher Institute Day (Students not in attendance)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	<b><u>PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10</u></b> (9-10)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	9	<b><u>SAT</u></b> (11 <sup>th</sup> grade only)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	8-9	<b><u>AAPPL</u></b> Seal of Biliteracy (9-12)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19-22	Easter Holiday (District Closed)
28	29	30					23	First Day of <b><u>STAR</u></b> – Window 2 (9-12 Special Education/Success Plan only)
								➤ 4/23-4/26 (9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Literacy)
								➤ 4/49-5/03 (9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Math)
								➤ 5/06-5/10 (9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Makeups)
							24	<b><u>SAT</u></b> (Make up day if needed)
							30	Last Day of the <b><u>Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)</u></b> (H.S. Biology Students only)
							30	Last Day of <b><u>Fitness Testing</u></b> Window 2 (9-12)
May							6-24	<b><u>AP</u></b> Testing
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	8	Last Day of the <b><u>DLM</u></b> (11 <sup>th</sup> grade SPED students who qualify only)
			1	2	3	4	17	Last Day of <b><u>STAR</u></b> – Window 2 (2-12 Special Education/Success Plan only)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		➤ 4/23-4/26 (9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Literacy)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		➤ 4/49-5/03 (9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Math)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		➤ 5/06-5/10 (9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Makeups)
26	27	28	29	30	31		21-23	High School Final Exams
							24	Last Day of School; Improvement Day (3.5 hour Student Attendance)

# ***High School Assessments***

*The following is an alphabetical list of the assessments CUSD 308 currently uses at the High School level and their purpose.*

## **ACCESS for ELLs®2.0/Alternate ACCESS for ELLs**

- ❖ Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State
- ❖ Given once per year - WINTER
- ❖ A State Assessment
- ❖ Administered to K-5<sup>th</sup> graders
- ❖ Paper/Pencil and Online available



## **ACCESS Testing Announcement**

*January 16 – February 19, 2019*

Section 14C-3 of the Illinois School Code and Section 228.25(c) (1) and (3) of the Administrative Code require school districts to assess each student who has been identified as having limited English proficiency.

*ACCESS for ELLs®2.0*, an Illinois state mandated test, will be given to assess students' development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English. Thus, all identified English Language Learners (ELLs) must be assessed during the annual ACCESS examination each year until he or she achieves the state designated cut-off score before exiting the program.

Students who were identified as English Language Learners (ELs) but whose parents refused language support services must be tested with ACCESS for ELLs®2.0 until they meet the state designated cut-off score. (For more information, please visit the Illinois State Board of Education website: [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net) under the assessment division link.)

The speaking section of the test will be administered **individually** sometime between January 16 and February 19, 2019. Listening, reading and writing sections will be administered in **groups** based on the students' English proficiency level from January 17 to February 19, 2019.

ACCESS for ELLs®2.0 involves a variety of assessment activities. There is no specific information students need to study before the test. The best way for them to prepare is for them to go to bed early the night before the tests and eat a good breakfast before coming to school for testing.

## **Alternate ACCESS Testing Announcement**

*January 16 – February 19, 2019*

*Alternate ACCESS for ELLs*, an Illinois state mandated test, will be given to assess students' development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English. A large-print, paper-based test individually administered to students who are identified as English language learners (ELLs) with significant cognitive disabilities. It is designed for ELLs who have disabilities that prevent them from meaningfully participating in *ACCESS for ELLs®2.0*.

## DLM

- ❖ Dynamic Learning Maps
- ❖ Given once per year – SPRING
- ❖ A State Assessment
- ❖ Administered to all students that qualify (SPED 11<sup>th</sup> grade)
- ❖ Online only



## DLM Testing Announcement

*March 13 – May 8, 2019*

Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades 11 will be administered the *Dynamic Learning Maps – Alternative Assessment (DLM-AA)* from March 13 – May 9, 2019.

This assessment is aligned to the Common Core Essential Elements in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Parents of students to be assessed with the DLM-AA will be receiving additional information under separate cover. More specific information regarding the DLM-AA can be found on our district website. Please feel free to contact your child's school with additional questions regarding DLM-AA.

## Fitness Test

- ❖ Physical Fitness Test
- ❖ Given once per year – WINTER
- ❖ A State Assessment
- ❖ Administered to 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades
- ❖ Online only



## Fitness Testing Announcement

*January 17 – May 24, 2019*

In an effort to meet State Goal 20 which is to “Achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness based upon continual self-assessment”, we are required to implement the *Fitness Testing* assessment. According to research, continual self-assessment and fitness testing can help students identify their fitness levels and set goals for improvement. Gathering this data enables parents and schools to better understand the health trends within their region and encourage enhancements in a school's physical education program.

All students in grades 9-12 unless otherwise exempted, will be tested once a year. Results will be reported to the State of Illinois for grade 10 only. **The fitness data will not contain any individual student names or assessment results.** Only a school's aggregate data of those tested by grade and gender will be reported.

For specific questions about this physical fitness assessment, please contact your child's physical education teacher.

## ISA

- ❖ Illinois Science Assessment
- ❖ Given once per year - SPRING
- ❖ A State Assessment
- ❖ Administered to HS Biology Students
- ❖ Online only



### ISA Testing Announcement

*March 1 – April 30, 2019*

Between March 1 and April 30 and in compliance with federal testing requirements, Illinois will administer a science assessment to students enrolled in a public school district in High School Biology. The assessment will be administered in an online format and is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards for Science incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which were adopted in 2014. Please visit the Illinois State Board of Education's website ([www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net)) for more information.

## STAR

- ❖ Standardized Testing and Reporting
- ❖ Given three times a year – FALL, WINTER, and SPRING
- ❖ A Local Assessment
- ❖ Administered to 9-12 *SPED* only
- ❖ Online only



### STAR Testing Announcement

*August 20, September 14, 2018*

*November 26 – December 21, 2018*

*April 23 – May 17, 2019*

To assess the start of the year level of your child's understanding in mathematics and English language arts (ELA); your child will soon be taking the *STAR* assessment. The *STAR* assessment will be administered in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade Special Education students only. The *STAR* assessment will give classroom teachers more detailed information on students' progress as a means to better inform instruction.

All *STAR* assessments are computer-adaptive tests (CATs). This means that tests continually adjust the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each test question based on the child's previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased.

*STAR* tests are designed to be as efficient as possible. On average, students will complete the *STAR* Math test in about 20 minutes, the *STAR* Reading test in about 15 minutes. However, some students may require more time.

*STAR*™ assessments can also be used to monitor student growth throughout the year, to estimate students' understanding of state standards, and predict students' performance on the state test. Should you have any questions regarding *STAR*, please contact your students' teacher or building administrator.

## CollegeBoard Suite of Assessments Announcement

The following are a listing of CollegeBoard exams we participate in as a district. These exams are currently only given at the high school level and are intended to help students prepare for college entrance exams.

	AP Advanced Placement	PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10	PSAT/NMSQT	SAT
<b>STATE or National?</b>	National	National	National	National	STATE
<b>Time of Year?</b>	Spring	Spring	Spring	Fall	Spring
<b>Grade Level?</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade
<b>Dates?</b>	May 6 – 24 2019	April 10 2019	April 10 2019	As requested (Typically in October)	April 9 2019
<b>Method of?</b>	Paper/Pencil	Paper/Pencil	Paper/Pencil	Paper/Pencil	Paper/Pencil
<b>Cost Involved?</b>	YES Personal Cost of the student.	NO Paid for by District	NO Paid for by District	YES Personal Cost of the student.	NO Paid for by State
<b>Required?</b>	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES IL graduation requirement
					