

INDIANA ACUITY READINESS ASSESSMENTS

Overview

For 2014-15, the Acuity statewide assessment program replaced grades 3-8 E/LA and Math Predictive, Curriculum Map-Aligned, and Diagnostic assessments with new Readiness assessments. The new grades 3-8 E/LA and Math Acuity Readiness assessments are aligned to the 2014 Indiana Academic Standards.

The new Acuity Readiness forms are designed to help teachers and students transition to college- and career-ready standards. Readiness forms contain a mix of multiple-choice and technology-enhanced items to help students prepare for ISTEP+. Acuity Readiness assessments **serve as three pretests**, monitoring student learning of the new standards and informing instructional needs throughout the school year. For more detailed information, please review the **Acuity Readiness Assessment Tutorial PowerPoint presentation** in the Readiness Toolkit.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will the new E/LA and Math Readiness assessments predict proficiency on ISTEP+?

No. The Acuity online reports will not contain any predictions or scale scores.

2. What will educators see in the new E/LA and Math Readiness reports?

The Acuity Readiness reports present learning data based on 2014 Indiana Academic Standards. Learning data reports are generated from student assessments and instructional resource assignments. For example, to view proficiency by academic standard, we recommend selecting a Student Assessment, Item Analysis, or Matrix report. These reports will provide more actionable learning data than a Roster report. For additional help with Acuity Readiness reports **review the PowerPoint tutorial** in the Readiness Assessment Toolkit.

3. Are the Readiness assessments designed like the former Predictive assessments?

No. The items are all on grade level and offer a mix of multiple-choice and technology-enhanced items (TE) to support the move to College- and Career-Ready (CCR) standards. Also, each form contains unique items so students will not see the same item twice. Given this, it is possible that students will see items aligned to standards not yet covered in the classroom. Additional time may be needed for students to complete the new Readiness

assessments. The content of Readiness assessments is aligned to ISTEP+, however in some instances, the Acuity platform may present items differently than ISTEP+. For additional information on the design of the Readiness assessments **review the Readiness Assessment Maps** inside the Readiness Toolkit.

4. Are Readiness items considered “secure”?

Prior to test administration the items are considered secure. Once the assessments have been administered to all students in a grade level, the items may be used for educator professional development or with students as part of instruction. To view an item, point to the underlined item number in an Assessment or Item Analysis report and click. The actual question, distractors, and correct answer will be shown. For additional help with viewing items in reports **review the PowerPoint tutorial** in the Readiness Assessment Toolkit.

5. Can we take the Readiness assessments offline (paper and pencil)?

Yes. Acuity offers E/LA and Math assessments for online and offline test administration. The paper/pencil forms have the word “Offline” in the assessment name. Schools will need to locally print and hand score any paper/pencil assessments.

6. What Technology-Enhanced items will students see on the Readiness forms?

All forms contain a mix of multiple-choice and TE items which may offer multiple-correct response, drag-and-drop, and evidence-based selected response. During online test administration, Acuity TE items may be presented differently than other online platforms. Also, some may appear different in an offline format. Students will progressively view more TE items from Readiness 1 to Readiness 3 forms. Schools may need to allow students more time to complete these assessments given the item rigor and complexity. For additional information on the design of the Readiness assessments **review the Readiness Assessment Maps** inside the Readiness Toolkit.

7. How should we discuss Readiness assessments with our students?

Set appropriate expectations. The items on these new forms are all on grade level. It is possible that students may see questions on topics not yet covered in the classroom. When reviewing Acuity Readiness reports, focus on proficiency by academic standard. Was the standard covered in class? Student Assessment, Item Analysis, and Classroom Matrix reports offer this level of detail. Next, look at the item type (multiple-choice or TE), the correct answer, and the distractors.

8. Why do the ELA Readiness assessment passages seem more difficult for students than previous years?

The passages meet the expectation in the 2014 Indiana Academic Standards. Students are reading a variety of literature and nonfiction within a range of complexity appropriate to their grade levels. For more information regarding text complexity, please see the Guide to Text Complexity in the Educators’ Toolkit for Indiana’s K-12 Reading Selections located here: <http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/standards/educators-toolkit-indianas-k-12->

[reading-selections-6-9-14.pdf](#) . Another helpful document designed to show samples of a wide range of texts at appropriate levels of complexity is located here:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/standards/sample-texts-revised-6-23-14v4.pdf>.

9. Why are there two parts to the Math Readiness assessment for some grades?

The Acuity system automatically enables a calculator for some test items. This is not designed to reflect what may be allowed for ISTEP+ Math items. Schools may decide to allow calculators for any part of a Math Readiness assessment.

10. Can students use reference sheets during a Readiness assessment?

Although the assessment items are designed for completion without reference sheets, schools may allow students to use them during test administration.

11. Given the rigor and complexity of the Readiness items, can students complete each assessment over more than one class period?

Yes, schools may allow students to save their answers and return to complete the Readiness assessment. All students should complete the assessment during the established, approved IDOE Acuity test windows.

12. If I'm having difficulty with any system issues (login, accessing reports, viewing assessments, etc.) what are my next steps?

Check with your local Test Coordinator or Acuity Super User. Or, call the MHE CTB Help Desk at 1-800-282-1132 Option #3 to report issues or get updates.