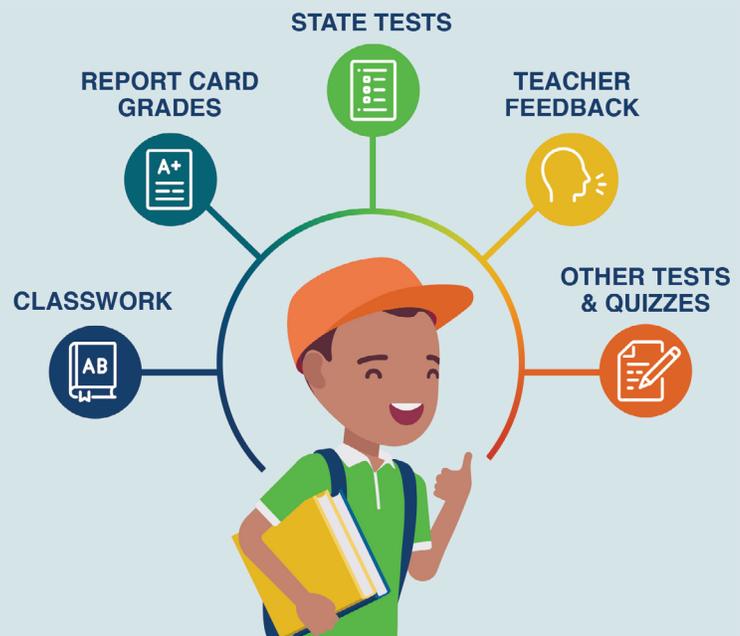




## A FAMILY GUIDE TO ANNUAL STATE TESTS IN INDIANA: One of Many Measures of Student Learning

There are many ways to measure academic performance, and annual state tests are only one of them. These tests are not meant to tell the whole story. They are meant to be combined with other measures, including teacher feedback, classwork and projects, and report card grades. Together, these measures can give families a more complete picture of a student's performance so they can better support learning at home and advocate for their child.



### State Assessments 101

The Every Student Succeeds Act or ESSA, requires students to take state tests in reading and math every year in third through eighth grade and once in high school. In Indiana, students in third through eighth grade take the Indiana Learning Evaluation Assessment Readiness Network (ILEARN) in English language arts and math. In fourth and sixth grade students take ILEARN in science and in fifth grade in social studies.

High school students take the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress + (ISTEP+) in 10th grade in English language arts and Algebra 1. To earn a diploma, students must pass the test in both subjects. Students can retake the test if they need to and there are other options for students to demonstrate they have mastered the content, including written recommendations from teachers.

## A Focus on Grade Level Skills

Unlike other tests, ILEARN is focused on grade level material and is aligned to the state standards. The test questions match what students do and learn in the classroom everyday throughout the year, which are the skills that are most important for students to learn in order to move on to more challenging content.

ILEARN is taken online and is computer adaptive, which means it adjusts the difficulty of the questions based on the student's responses. The test includes a variety of different types of questions, including traditional multiple choice, and open ended questions that require students to explain their answer and use evidence to support it.

### Grade 6: Math

Your principal surprises you by buying your class a turtle. He brings the turtle to your class along with a sheet from the pet store titled "Turtle Tank Rules".

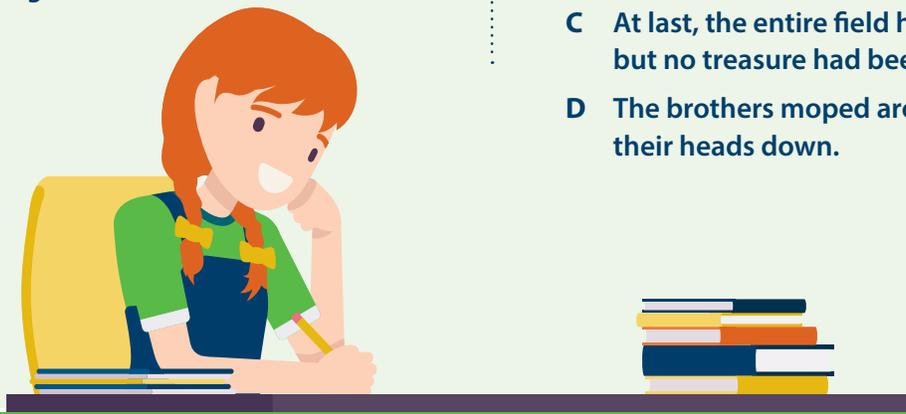
The rules state:

- Tank walls must be at least 1 foot tall so the turtle can't climb out.
- There must be at least 400 square inches of floor space for the turtle to walk around on.

Your teacher says the volume of the tank must be smaller than 5000 cubic inches so it doesn't take up too much room in the classroom.

**Give the dimensions of a tank that would work for your new turtle. Use words and numbers to explain how your tank satisfies the "Turtle Tank Rules" and your teacher's requirement.**

*Volume of a rectangular prism = length x width x height*



### Grade 3: ELA

**Part A:** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then answer part B.

Which statement about the boys is supported by the passage?

- A The boys did not share the work equally.
- B The boys did not know how to plant a field of rice.
- C The young boys wished to surprise their father with a special dinner.
- D The young boys preferred to sit in the house instead of working outside.

**Part B:** Which sentence from the passage best supports your answer in part A.

- A The sons promised and hurried out to begin.
- B As the years went by, it became clear even to their father that the boys were lazy.
- C At last, the entire field had been dug, but no treasure had been found.
- D The brothers moped around with their heads down.

## Useful Information for All

### **FAMILIES:** Understanding Grade Level Performance

The ILEARN report gives families information on how well their child performed on different sets of skills in each subject. Families can use this information to identify where their child is doing well and where they may need support or practice. This helps families better support learning at home. It can also help them start meaningful conversations with teachers, to set goals for each student's areas of improvement and to identify resources and strategies that can be used at home and in school to help students make progress.

#### **Questions to Ask the Teacher about Your Child's ILEARN Report :**

- What does this mean about my child's learning?
- Is my child on grade level?
- Where does my child need more support or improvement?
- What short-term learning goals should my child meet to show progress?
- How can I support learning at home?



### **TEACHERS:** Informing Instruction

Students take different types of tests throughout the school year. Some students take benchmark or diagnostic tests, such as MAP Growth, mCLASS or i-Ready. These are taken several times a year and measure mastery of important concepts and skills in reading and math. Students take a test at the beginning of the year to identify their “starting point” and again throughout the year to measure their progress. Benchmark tests help teachers identify and address learning gaps early on so students can stay on track to meet grade level expectations. While ILEARN is only given at the end of the school year, it is one way of showing how much progress students made from the beginning of the year and how well they met grade level expectations.

While teachers use ILEARN results to understand each student's unique needs and support them in the areas where they need extra help, they also help teachers to improve their instruction. Teachers can use the results to look for trends in their students' learning to see what skills or concepts students learned and what content they struggled with. This helps teachers identify what they taught effectively and where they need to improve or change their instructional strategies.

### **SCHOOL & DISTRICT LEADERS: Informing Decisions**

ILEARN results are critical for school and district leaders to make informed decisions about schools and students. School and district level test scores show leaders how students across a school or district are performing and indicate if a certain group of students or schools need more support. This allows them to target additional support or resources to help those schools improve. District leaders can also use ILEARN scores to understand what strategies and changes are working.



### **STATE LEADERS: Helping Schools Improve**

State leaders use ILEARN results to identify schools and districts that need more support and resources. They identify the schools with the lowest performance in the state, as well as schools with certain groups of students that performed much lower on the test than the rest of the students in that school. These schools receive additional funding and resources from the state to support students and teachers. For example, schools may hire more teachers or tutors or they may purchase additional instructional materials and programs, depending on the needs of their students.

#### **Where Can I Go for More Information?**

- For answers to frequently asked questions, visit [DOE.In.gov/Assessment/iLearn](https://doe.in.gov/Assessment/iLearn)
- To see a sample score report, visit [iLearn.Portal.CambiUMast.com/Resources/Sample-Individual-Student-Reports-SAF/](https://iLearn.Portal.CambiUMast.com/Resources/Sample-Individual-Student-Reports-SAF/)
- To take a practice test in each grade level and subject, visit [Login12.Cloud1.TDS.Airast.org/Student/V505/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=Indiana\\_PT](https://Login12.Cloud1.TDS.Airast.org/Student/V505/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=Indiana_PT)
- For ideas on how to support your child's learning at home, visit [PTA.org/FamilyGuides](https://PTA.org/FamilyGuides)
- For more information about the Indiana PTA visit [IndianaPTA.org/](https://IndianaPTA.org/)

