



## ISAT: What you need to know

### What is the ISAT?

The Illinois Standards Achievement Test is a standardized test required of public school students in IL. It is taken in March in 6 tests of math and ELA in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, and 2 additional tests in science in 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

### What is the ISAT used for?

The federal No Child Left Behind law requires schools to test every student annually.

### What is the ISAT not used for?

In Chicago Public Schools, the ISAT is **NOT** used to determine:

- students going to summer school or being promoted to the next grade
- student eligibility or admissions to selective enrollment programs
- teacher or principal evaluation or school report cards or performance levels

This year, all of the above decisions will be made using the Spring NWEA/MAP test.

### Can I opt my child out of ISAT?

Yes. CPS CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett has confirmed in writing that parents have the right to opt their children out of standardized testing.

### Are there consequences for my child if he/she opts out of the ISAT?

No.

### Are there consequences for teachers or schools if my child opts out of the ISAT?

No.

### How do I opt my child out of ISAT?

Simply write a note or email stating your child will not take the ISAT and send it to your principal.

### I'm being told I have to meet with my principal. Is that true?

You cannot be required to meet with your principal.

### What will my child do while other students are taking the test?

Your child can do any quiet activity. They do not have to stay home.

### My principal is pressuring me not to opt out. What can I do?

Your child is not legally obligated to take the ISAT and parents have the legal right to "direct the upbringing and education of their children." Please contact us, we can help. We are stronger when many voices are heard together.

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