

Frequently Asked Questions: *Iowa Assessments*

1. What if our school is unable to test during the spring window?
The spring testing window has been extended to September 23 for *Iowa Assessments*. This extended window is referred to as Summer and Back-to-School Testing.
2. Is ACSI offering financial assistance to schools that want to test in this extended window?
ACSI is extending a 20% scoring discount to all schools that administer *Iowa* paper/pencil the Spring, Summer, or Back-to-School window.
3. If our school registered for scoring (Order for Scoring Services for *Iowa*), do we need to re-register for Summer or Back-to-School testing?
No. Your scoring registration for spring testing will function for Summer and Back-to-school testing. Your *Iowa* Scoring Services Packet can be used to package and ship your test materials to the scoring center for Summer and Back-to-School testing.
4. At which grade level should students be tested in the Summer or Back-to-School window?
Students should be tested at their spring 2020 grade level.
5. Which norms will be used in the Summer/Back-to-School window?
Spring norms will be used.
6. How is Back-to-School Testing different from Fall Testing?
 - a. Back-to-School testing is completed by September 23 (*Iowa*). Spring norms are used, and students take the test level that they would have taken in spring 2020.
 - b. The fall testing window is September-November (*Iowa*). Fall norms are used, and students take the test level that they are currently in. Schools must register for scoring for fall testing; the spring extended window registration cannot be used.
7. If our school purchased barcode labels for spring, can they be used for Summer or Back-to-School testing?
Yes. The barcode labels for spring testing can be used in this extended window. The student information and grade level on the score results will be the same as the information on the barcode label. The school may re-roster students under the 2020-2021 school year teacher by placing students under that teacher's Class/Group ID Sheet (*Iowa*). Otherwise, student results will be listed under the 2019-2020 teacher.
8. Why should our school test in this extended window? Won't achievement test scores be affected by the spring 2020 adaptive and remote instruction?
Achievement test results provide actual student achievement data. The scores may be lower because of the events of spring 2020, but they are valid and will provide helpful information as schools look for gaps and plan instruction for the 2020-2021 school year.

9. When we return to school next fall, we want to focus on instructional time, not testing.

Testing is a component of instruction- a teaching tool. Following this spring's adaptive and remote learning, it will be especially important to determine a baseline of achievement. More effective teaching and learning will follow an analysis of individual and group achievement and mastery levels.

10. Our state canceled testing this year.

Christian school achievement testing is not mandated by the state. Christian schools have historically tested to identify academic achievement; analyze growth, strengths, and weaknesses; make instructional program decisions, and to hold themselves accountable to their stakeholders- parents.

Although some states have canceled state testing, public systems will need to identify achievement and mastery levels as they begin a new school year next fall.

Some schools who have scholarship students will need to check with their state department of education. They may be required to provide standardized assessment scores for their scholarship students even though public schools are exempt from testing requirements.

11. We are using another diagnostic test in the fall.

The *Iowa Assessments* achievement test reflects a national consensus curriculum and the most current standards in each content area. It is objective and provides a plethora of norm-referenced and criterion-referenced scores that allow schools to identify comparison, growth, and performance data. It is a powerful tool to help diagnose achievement and mastery.

12. What if our school purchased testing materials and is unable to test during this extended window?

Schools should keep testing materials.

- i. As time passes, rescheduling in this extended window may become more realistic.
- ii. *Iowa* materials can be used for future test windows.
- iii. Returning materials must have prior approval by ACSI, a 20% return fee is assessed, and returned materials must be in resaleable condition.

13. Can the *Iowa Assessments* be administered remotely (at home)?

Riverside Insights has provided new guidance for schools to administer *Iowa Assessments* or *CogAT* online remotely. For more information about this opportunity, please fill out the [Remote Testing Inquiry Form](#).