

Common Individual Student Report/Parent Report Questions and Answers

CONTACT INFORMATION:

General ISR questions:

Dawn Thompson 518-474-7965

Clara DeSorbo 518-474-7965

Questions about who determined cut scores:

David Abrams- Assistant Commissioner

518-473-7880

Questions about who needs to be tested:

Office of State Assessment

518-474-5099 or 518-474-5902

AIS questions:

Ken Slentz (Assoc Commissioner District Svcs) (518) 474-5520

Office of District Services

136 EB

New York State Education Department

89 Washington Ave

Albany, New York 12234

(518) 474-5520

distservices@mail.nysed.gov

Or

Patricia Chmielewski

Lee York

Sandra Norfleet

474-5923

718-722-2636

Questions about how scores impact accountability:

E-mail: emscnyc@mail.nysed.gov

Assistant Commissioner's Office

Ira Schwartz, Assistant Commissioner

Please direct your inquiries to: Cheroll Dossett, Assistant to the Assistant Commissioner

Brooklyn Office:

New York State Education Department

55 Hanson Place - Room 400

Brooklyn, NY 11217
Tel. (718) 722-2796
FAX: (718) 722-2500

Albany Office:

New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Room 375 EBA
Albany, NY 12234
Tel. (518) 474-4715
FAX: (518) 486-1601

Accountability, Policy and Administration

Lisa Long, Supervisor
55 Hanson Place, Room 445C
Brooklyn, NY 11217
Tel. (718) 722-4553
FAX: (718) 722-4559

Intervention, Evaluation and Best Practices

Sandra Herndon, Coordinator
55 Hanson Place, Room 482A
Brooklyn, NY 11217
Tel. (718) 722-2784
FAX: (718) 722-7884

School Improvement

Sandra Norfleet, Coordinator
55 Hanson Place, Room 584A
Brooklyn, NY 11217
Tel. (718) 722-2636
FAX: (718) 722-4721

Title I School and Community Services

Roberto Reyes, Director
89 Washington Avenue
Room 365 EBA
Albany, NY 12234
Tel. (518) 473-0295
FAX: (518) 486-1762

Section I: What is an ISR?

Q. What is an ISR?

A. Individual Student Report. It is a report that provides information about a student's results on the English language arts or mathematics assessments, such as the Scale Score and Performance Level for the current year and prior years, if applicable; Academic Intervention Services, if applicable; and SPI results (see below).

Section I: How to obtain a copy of an ISR

Districts/Schools:

Q. For 2010-11 when will the ISRs be released to schools?

A. ISR release to scanning centers and schools/districts via four methods:

a. **Bulk:** ISRs were released to scanning centers only through a Bulk release via Secure SFTP site on Wednesday, September 15, 2010.

b. **nySTART:** Release to schools/districts via nySTART users (authorized users with ID/Password) Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at 4 P.M.

c. **L2RPT:** Release via L2RPT- data to be determined (authorized users with ID/password)

d. **Access database:** Release to scanning centers via an Access database to generate ISRs for new data on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 via the Departments SFTP site.

Parents:

Q. When will the ISRs be released to parents?

A. As soon as practical after they have been made available, schools are expected to provide a copy of the Individual Student Reports to each student's parent/guardian. It is the responsibility of the public school, public school district, nonpublic school, or charter school to print their own data or contract with a scanning center to print their ISRs.

Parents should contact the school principal. For schools/districts calling or sending e-mail request, they need to either:

a. print their own reports by logging onto <http://www.nySTART.gov>; or

b. contract with a RIC or Big 5 scanning center to print the ISRs for you. If you do not know who your scanning center contact is, please visit:

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/nystart/tips.html#contax>

Q. We lost our Individual Student Reports. How can I get another copy?

A. Due to student confidentiality, the Department does not release any individual student data. Please be advised that all schools in New York State have access to online student reports via a system called nySTART. If you are an administrator at a school/district, please log into <http://www.nySTART.gov> and download the ISRs. If your district or school has contracted with a Regional Information Center (RIC) or Big 5 scanning center to provide printed copies, please contact your scanning center liaison for a re-print. If you are a parent, please contact your school for a copy of your child's report.

Section III: How to obtain school results:

Q. When did schools see the 2010 ELA and math results?

A. 2010 results were released to schools and districts via nySTART and L2RPT at the end of July 2010. Schools had to log into the secure account to review student and school-level data. Data were no longer embargoed as of July 28, 2010

Q. How can I see how my school/district did on the 2010 ELA and Math data compared to other schools?

A. All public and charter school data are posted on the Department's website at:
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/pressRelease/20100728/home.html>

Q. How can I see nonpublic school data?

A. Send call to Gloria Salavatore 518-474-7965 or send the request to
Dataquest@mail.nysed.gov

Section IV: Questions about different sections on the ISR:

Q. What is an SPI?

A. Standard Performance Index. The SPI estimates the number of questions a child would have answered correctly if there were 100 items per standard. The child's performance on each standard is compared with the SPI target range. A student scoring within the target range demonstrates the expected understanding of the standard. The target ranges vary across standards because some standards may contain more difficult items than others.

Q. What is the official score- the SPI or the scale score and performance level?

A. The scale score and performance level are better indicators of the child's performance on the New York State Learning Standards than SPIs. Therefore, the official score is the scale score and performance level.

Q. Why do the SPIs on the back of an ISR all say "above the target" but the Scale Score on the front of the document says Level 3 (or Level 2 or Level 1)?

A. It is possible to have all SPIs "above the target" yet still have the mean Scale Score at or below level 3; the SPI is not simply the percent of correct items on a given standard. Additional information is considered when computing SPIs. In technical terms, the procedure used to calculate the SPI is based on a combination of Item Response Theory (IRT) and Bayesian methodology. In non-technical terms, when calculating the SPI, the procedure looks at:

1. the number of items related to the objective that the student answered correctly;
2. the difficulty level of those items;
3. the student's performance on the rest of the items related to that objective. This method increases the accuracy of the SPI.

Q. What is considered passing?

A. The Department now uses the terms "meeting the proficiency standards." Performance Levels 3 and 4 are considered meeting the proficiency standard. For 2009-2010, the State Education Department has raised the bar for the Basic and Proficient performance levels. A child scoring at or above the new Basic standard (Level 2) is on track to pass the English or math Regents exam required for high school graduation. A child scoring at or above the new Proficiency standard (Level 3) is on track to earn a college-ready score on the English or math Regents Examination.

Q. What are the different performance levels and what do they mean?

a. ELA

1. Level 1: Below Standard

- Student performance does not demonstrate an understanding of the English language arts knowledge and skills expected at this grade level.
- AIS: This year, your child did not demonstrate the knowledge and skills required by the ELA Learning Standards. Therefore, the school is required to provide academic intervention services for your child. Discuss the school's plan for these services with your child's teacher or school officials.

2. Level 2: Meets Basic Standard

- Student performance demonstrates a partial understanding of the English language arts knowledge and skills expected at this grade level.
- AIS: This year, your child partially demonstrated the knowledge and skills required by the ELA Learning Standards. For the 2010-11 school year only, the regulations for required extra help, or Academic Intervention Services (AIS), have been adjusted. The cut score for AIS will be identical to the 2009 score that required students to receive AIS (650). If your child scored below 650, the school is required to provide academic intervention services for your child. If your child scored a Level 2 but above the 650 score, please check with your child's school for its AIS policy. For students scoring close to Level 3, monitoring your child's performance may be sufficient. Please discuss the school's plan for these services with your child's teacher or school officials.

3. Level 3: Meets Proficiency Standard

- Student performance demonstrates an understanding of the English language arts knowledge and skills expected at this grade level.
- AIS: This year, your child demonstrated the knowledge and skills required by the ELA Learning Standards.

4. Level 4: Exceeds Proficiency Standard

- Student performance demonstrates a thorough understanding of the English language arts knowledge and skills expected at this grade level.
- AIS: This year, your child demonstrated the knowledge and skills required by the ELA Learning Standards.

b. Math

1. Level 1: Below Standard

- Student performance does not demonstrate an understanding of the mathematics content expected at this grade level.

- AIS: This year, your child did not demonstrate the knowledge and skills required by the Mathematics Learning Standard. Therefore, the school is required to provide academic intervention services for your child. Discuss the school's plan for these services with your child's teacher or school officials.
2. Level 2: Meets Basic Standard
 - Student performance demonstrates a partial understanding of the mathematics content expected at this grade level.
 - AIS: This year, your child partially demonstrated the knowledge and skills required by the Mathematics Learning Standard. For the 2010-11 school year only, the regulations for required extra help, or Academic Intervention Services (AIS), have been adjusted. The cut score for AIS will be identical to the 2009 score that required students to receive AIS (650). If your child scored below 650, the school is required to provide academic intervention services for your child. If your child scored a Level 2 but above the 650 score, please check with your child's school for its AIS policy. For students scoring close to Level 3, monitoring your child's performance may be sufficient. Please discuss the school's plan for these services with your child's teacher or school officials.
 3. Level 3: Meets Proficiency Standard
 - Student performance demonstrates an understanding of the mathematics content expected at this grade level.
 - AIS: This year, your child demonstrated the knowledge and skills required by the Mathematics Learning Standard.
 4. Level 4: Exceeds Proficiency Standard
 - Student performance demonstrates a thorough understanding of the mathematics content expected at this grade level.
 - AIS: This year, your child demonstrated the knowledge and skills required by the Mathematics Learning Standard.

Q. When are Academic Intervention Services (AIS) required?

A. The Department has established four State-designated levels of performance. All public and charter school students who score below the State-designated performance level (performance level 3) must be provided academic intervention services, which must commence in the semester immediately following the administration of the test. For the 2010-11 school year only, the regulations for required extra help, or Academic Intervention Services (AIS), have been adjusted. The cut score for AIS will be identical to the 2009 score that required students to receive AIS (650). If the child scored below 650, the school is required to provide academic intervention services for the child. If the child scored a Level 2 but above the 650 score, then AIS policy is up to the school. For students scoring close to Level 3, monitoring the child's performance may be sufficient. It is up to the school to determine a plan for these services – parents should check with the child's teacher or school officials.

Q. Is AIS required for nonpublic schools?

A. AIS is not mandated for nonpublic schools. Parents should discuss with the child's teacher or school officials academic intervention services that could help the child improve performance.

Section V: Questions about the ELA and/or Math tests:

Q. How can I get a copy of the test?

A. The New York State Education Department's Office of State Assessments posts the various assessments on the web at: <http://www.nysedregents.org/testing/elaei/09exams/home.htm>

Q. How can I get a copy of my child's test?

A. After all English Language Arts or Mathematics Tests have been scored and all scores have been recorded on students' permanent records, a student and his or her parents/guardians have the right to review the student's own test books and answer sheets. Test books and answer sheets should be reviewed in the presence of the principal or the principal's designee to ensure that no changes are made as they are being reviewed. Copies of test books and answer sheets may be provided to students and their parents upon request after the scanning centers have returned the answer sheets to the district.

Q. How can I see what questions my child got wrong on the test?

A. After all English Language Arts or Mathematics Tests have been scored and all scores have been recorded on students' permanent records, a student and his or her parents/guardians have the right to review the student's own test books and answer sheets. Test books and answer sheets should be reviewed in the presence of the principal or the principal's designee to ensure that no changes are made as they are being reviewed. Copies of test books and answer sheets may be provided to students and their parents upon request after the scanning centers have returned the answer sheets to the district.

Q. How do I know what questions belongs to which standard (ELA) or strand (Mathematics)?

A. The item maps linking question to test standard/strand can be found on the New York State Education Department's web site at: <http://www.nysedregents.org/testing/elaei/09exams/home.htm>

Q. Who scores the tests?

A. It is the responsibility of the public school, public school district, nonpublic school, or charter school to score their own tests by using one of the following methods:

1. Regional Scoring
2. Schools from two districts
3. Three or more schools within a district
4. Two schools within a district
5. One school

Once the tests are scored locally, the answer documents are scanned by the local RIC or Big 5 scanning center. The data are then submitted to the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) and then sent to the contractor CTB McGraw-Hill for scaling, scoring and equating.

Q. What happens if I think a child's paper has been scored incorrectly?

A. When the teacher scoring committee completes the scoring process, test scores must be considered final and must be entered onto students' answer sheets. Principals and other administrative staff in a school or district do not have the authority to set aside the scores arrived at by the teacher scoring committee and rescore student examination papers or to change any scores assigned through the procedures described in this manual and in the scoring materials provided by the Department. Any principal or administrator found to have done so, except in the circumstances described below, will be in violation of Department policy regarding the scoring of these tests. Teachers and administrators who violate Department policy with respect to scoring State examinations may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Sections 3020 and 3020-a of Education Law or to action against their certification pursuant to Part 83 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. If an administrator has substantial reason to believe that the teacher scoring committee has failed to accurately score student answer papers on any examination, the administrator must first obtain permission in writing from the Office of State Assessment before arranging for or permitting a rescoring of student papers. The written request to the Office of State Assessment must come from the superintendent of a public school district or the chief administrative officer of a nonpublic or charter school and must include the examination title, date of administration, and number of students whose papers would be subject to such rescoring. This request must also include a statement explaining why the administrator believes that the teacher scoring committee failed to score appropriately and, thus, why he or she believes rescoring the examination papers is necessary. As part of this submission, the school administrator must make clear his or her understanding that such extraordinary re-rating may be carried out only by a full committee of teachers constituted in accordance with the scoring guidelines presented above and fully utilizing the scoring materials for this test provided by the Department. The Department occasionally finds it necessary to notify schools of a revision to the scoring key and rating guide for an examination. Should this occur after the scoring committee has completed its work, the principal is authorized to have appropriate members of the scoring committee review students' responses only to the specific question(s) referenced in the notification and to adjust students' final examination scores when appropriate. This is the only circumstance in which the school is not required to notify or obtain approval from the Department to correct students' final examination scores. Questions concerning the administration of these tests should be directed to the Office of State Assessment at 518-474-5902 or 518-474-8220.