



Flossmoor School District 161
21st Century Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Dr. Dana Smith, Superintendent

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Dear District 161 Parents and Guardians,

Our students take federally required assessments every spring. These assessments help us understand how our students are growing academically, compared to their peers across the state. The state uses this information to provide more support and resources to the schools in the greatest need. This year, the English language arts and math assessment for grades 3-8 is called the **Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR)**.

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness is almost exactly the same this year as the PARCC assessment that students took last year, only slightly shorter. The Illinois Assessment of Readiness measures the same Illinois Learning Standards and includes the same high-quality test questions that teachers and students have become familiar with over the past four years. Our students should feel confident showing what they know and can do on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, even with the new test name and a new look.

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness will change over the next few years, as the state works to make it more useful to schools and families. Next year, we will have the results back from the test much more quickly. The year after that, the test will adapt to each student, so we gain a better understanding of where each individual student is in his or her proficiency and growth. We will continue to be able to measure students' growth from year to year throughout these improvements.

District 161 students will take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness from April 8 - 25, 2019. In the coming weeks, schools will share testing schedules and additional information about the IAR assessment. In addition, assessment and data was the focus of the Dessert with District 161 held on February 19. The presentation included information about the IAR and tips on how parents can support their student at home. Please see the handouts from the meeting attached to this letter.

If you have questions about the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, please reach out to the Department of Learning and Instruction at 708-647-7016 or acrawford@sd161.org. As always, we encourage our students to do their best every day. Thank you for your partnership in your student's academic success!

Sincerely,

Amabel Crawford

Ms. Amabel Crawford
Director of Learning and Instruction