

A Parent Guide to Understanding and Improving ISTEP+ Scores



Purpose

The purpose of this web page is to help you as parents better understand how to use the resources that are available to you to understand the scoring of the ISTEP + as well as to enable you to help your child better prepare to take the ISTEP+. The resource that is available is through the [Indiana Department of Education](#) website and the information will be listed as a link that is located to the left and titled "ISTEP + InfoCenter". The information will be sample test questions as well as assessment scores to help you and your child better understand what the individuals assessing the scores will be looking for. You, as parents, can play a major role in helping your child as well as the school improve upon the scores because your child will be familiar with the questions asked and also familiar with what kind of responses are more acceptable than others in the "open-ended" portion of the test. (Open-ended questions on the ISTEP+ are those questions that are not multiple choice)

ISTEP+ Scores

The first step in improving scores is to understand the scores that your child has received on the previous ISTEP+ test. You should be able to access your child's report online using the access code provided to you from your child's school. A copy of the results was also sent to you through the mail. The results will be broken down into *English/Language Arts, Math and Science (Grade 6) and Social Studies (Grade 7)*. The results will indicate what score they have received in each portion and will also indicate what the passing score is as well as the state average. On the back of the results it will indicate specific areas of the test and how your child performed on the open-ended section. To best benefit your child you will need to look for the areas they did not perform as well and use the [ISTEP+ InfoCenter](#) on the Indiana Department of Education's website to work on those areas that need to be improved.

Sample Questions

The Indiana Department of Education has gone to great lengths to aid the schools as well as parents in improving ISTEP+ scores. They have provided, on this website, sample questions from previous tests that can be downloaded and then printed to help improve specific areas on the test. Note that it will take some time to download these sample tests but it is in your son or daughters interest to do this in helping them prepare for the test. It is extremely difficult to go into a test and really not having an idea how the test will be presented. By downloading these sample questions it will help them prepare both in mentally preparing to what is on the test but also how these questions will be asked. By clicking on this link [ISTEP+ Publications](#) it will take you to an assortment of different grade levels. Choose the grade-level that will best fit your child's needs.

Applied Skills Assessment

One of the greatest resources you have to prepare your child is once again found in the [ISTEP+ Publications](#) link found in the Indiana Department of Education website. In this website you will find the "Applied Skills Assessment" for grades 3-8. This is an exceptional tool for you and your child to use to better understand how these questions will be assessed. By using the Applied Skills Assessment given on the website, you and your child will have a better understanding of how to improve your son or daughters performance on the next ISTEP+ test.

Final Thoughts

It has been said that, "It takes a village to raise a child", meaning that it takes all of us, the school, teachers, and parents, to do everything within our power to meet the needs of the child and to see them grow and excel. By taking the time to do these things at home it will help ensure the success of your child's academic needs and help them prepare for life ahead. No one ever said that it would be an easy road;but, by you as parents taking the time and effort to prepare your child for the ISTEP+ test, that road becomes a little bit more paved.

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