

Parent Resource to Understanding & 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 precious ISTEP test. You should have a copy of the results, if you do not have a copy contact your child's school. The results will be broken down into *English/Language Arts* and *Math*. The results will indicate what score they have received in each portion and will also indicate what the passing score is as well as what the state average is. On the back of the results it will indicate specific areas of the test and how your child performed. It will also indicate how they 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 daughter's interest to do this in helping them prepare for the test. It is extremely difficult to go into a test and not have an idea how the test will be presented. Downloading these sample questions it will help them prepare mentally by knowing what is on the test as well as how these questions will be asked. Clicking on this link, [ISTEP+ Publications](#) will take you to a list of grade levels. Choose the grade level that will best fit your child's needs. There are sample questions for Grades 3, 6, 8, and 10 but will also provide test books for grades 3-10. Remember that when you download these sample questions or test booklets, it will take some time.

Applied Skills Assessment

One of the greatest sources you have to prepare your child is once again found in the [ISTEP+ Publication](#) link found on the Indiana Department of Education website. On this website you will find the "Applied Skills Assessment" for grades 3-10. This is an exceptional tool for you and your child to use to better understand how these questions will be assessed. Once again, it will take some time to download but if you look back over the ISTEP+ Student Report that was provided to you for the last test given you can better understand how the assessment was done and it is from this point you and your child can work on improving their responses. The assessment will have point values and by using the Applied Skills Assessment given on the website you will have examples of what types of responses would fit those point totals. Once again, for you and your child to understand, this is key to improving the scores on the next ISTEP+ test given.

Final Thoughts

It has been said that, "It takes a village to raise a child", meaning that it takes all of us, the school, teacher, and parents, to do everything within our power to meet the needs of the child and to see them grow and excel. By taking 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, that road becomes a little bit better paved.

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