

Parents and Guardians of the Irene-Wakonda School District:

From **March 11 to March 18**, students in grade 11 will take state assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. The purpose of this letter is to help with your understanding of the assessments.

For the first time this spring, your child will take the ACT as their high school state assessment. The ACT is aligned to what your child has been learning in school, providing a great opportunity for all students to understand both how far they have come into high school and their readiness for what comes next after high school, whatever plans they may have post-graduation.

Students will complete testing online in all three areas and the assessment is provided at no charge to parents. The results will be used to measure student performance on district and high school Accountability Report Cards. Students without accommodations will test on March 11 as a single day event. Those with accommodations will begin testing on March 17 and complete testing on March 18. Importantly, the score they receive can be submitted to four colleges for entrance and scholarship purposes for free. Students can retake the ACT at their own expense should they wish to attempt to improve their scores.

Student grades will not be impacted by their performance on this assessment, but it is a helpful way to gauge where your child is academically. Additionally, the assessment serves as a way for the school to analyze how well we are helping students meet the state content standards.

What This Means

For your students: This is their opportunity to demonstrate what they've learned and earn a score that has real value beyond the classroom. They should prepare seriously, do their best work, and understand that this investment benefits their future—whatever path they choose.

For families: Encourage your students to take this assessment seriously. The score belongs to them and can be used for years to come.

Looking Ahead

We believe this change represents a positive step forward—reducing testing time while increasing the real-world value of the assessment for our students. We're committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to perform their best.

Thank you for your continued commitment to student success.

Sincerely,

Alannah Aesoph-Vlasman
School Counselor
Testing Coordinator