

2023-2024

Science ISAT Guide



IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY | ISAT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Science ISAT overview.....	3
Eligibility Requirements	3
Testing Dates	3
Standards and Assessment Content	3
The Science ISAT Item Specifications	3
Test Blueprints.....	4
Item Types	4
Assessment Types	5
Summative Assessment.....	5
Interim Assessments.....	5
Practice and Training Tests.....	6
Test Security	6
Test Administration.....	6
Reporting and Data	7

SCIENCE ISAT OVERVIEW

Eligibility Requirements

- All students enrolled in an Idaho public school in grades **5, 8, and 11**, are required to participate in the summative Science ISAT, approved by the State Board of Education ([IDAPA 08.02.03.111](#)) See [Testing Population Requirements](#) for unique requirements and exemptions.
- Students in grades 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10 shall not take the summative science ISAT, but may take the interim science assessments. See Interim Assessments for more information.

Testing Dates

- The **interim** testing window runs from September 11th, 2023, to February 23rd, 2024.
- The **summative** testing window runs from March 11th, 2024, to May 24th, 2024.

Standards and Assessment Content

The [2022 Idaho State Science Standards](#) will be assessed on the 2023-2024 Science ISAT.

The Science ISAT Item Specifications outline each Idaho State Science Standard along with assessment information on each standard, including vocabulary, task demands, example phenomena, further explanation, and content limits.

- [Elementary Science ISAT Item Specifications](#)
- [Middle School Science ISAT Item Specifications](#)
- [High School Science ISAT Item Specifications](#)

Test Blueprints summarize the number and types of questions that will appear on each assessment. The table below summarizes the summative blueprints.

Items and Item Types on the Summative Science ISAT

Test Name	Number of Clusters	Number of Standalone Items	Number of Field Test Items	Total Number of Items
Elementary Science ISAT	6	12	1-4	19-22
Middle School Science ISAT	6	12	1-4	19-22
High School Science ISAT	6	13	1-4	20-23

- Interim Blueprints
 - [Elementary School](#)
 - [Middle School](#)
 - [High School](#)
- Summative Blueprints
 - [Elementary School](#)
 - [Middle School](#)
 - [High School](#)

Item Types: Students will encounter two different types of items on the Science ISAT. All items are aligned to one Idaho State Science Standard and being with a phenomenon (a discrete observation about the natural world) or engineering/design problem. All items engage students in a scientific activity that demonstrates their ability to think like a scientist.

- **Standalone Items** consist of *one* brief, grade-appropriate activity that assesses the student’s scientific thinking and/or problem-solving skills and are aligned to 2-3 dimensions of an Idaho State Science Standard (DCI, SEP, CCC).
- **Clusters** consist of *several* task demands that provide the student the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to think like a scientist and are aligned to all three elements of an Idaho State Science Standard (DCI, SEP, CCC).
- **Field Test Items** are not yet operational and will **not** be included in the scale score or reporting at the student, school, district, or state level. These items require necessary performance data and review before entering the operational item pool.

Assessment Types

Summative Assessment

The summative Science ISAT is required by federal law and by IDAPA to be administered to all students enrolled in Idaho public schools in 5th, 8th, and 11th grades. The summative ISAT window runs from mid-March to mid-May each school year. The 5th grade Science ISAT assesses content from the Idaho State Science Standards in grades 3-5, the 8th grade Science ISAT assesses content from the Idaho State Science Standards in grades 6-8, and the 11th grade Science ISAT assesses content from the high school Idaho State Science Standards.

Interim Assessments

There are several interim assessments available for use by Idaho educators in the classroom. Educators may access both comprehensive and subject-specific interims via the [Idaho Portal](#). The interim assessments vary in length and content. See Table 2 (below) for information on the estimated time required by item type, and use this information to estimate the time required for each interim by viewing the number of clusters and standalones on the selected interim assessment.

Interim assessments may be used for many different purposes, including (but not limited to):

- Benchmarking
- Pre- and post- tests
- Targeted classroom practice
- Platform familiarity
- Small group intervention

Idaho Department of Education staff are available to conduct virtual or in-person trainings for DTCs, district administrators, and teachers on the interim assessments. [Click here to request training.](#)

Standardized and Non-Standardized Interim Administration

LEAs have the choice of whether to administer the Science ISAT interim assessments in a standardized or non-standardized fashion.

In a standardized administration, assessments are given to students with the same tools, settings, and expectations that would be available to them on the summative ISAT assessment. These assessments replicate the summative testing environment and provide student-level data on what students know and can do in alignment to the Idaho Content standards.

In a non-standardized administration, assessments are given as a classroom activity without some, or all, of the expectations of the summative ISAT assessment (group work, teacher-led,

practice problems). This type of administration does not replicate the summative environment and does not give accurate student-level data but provides students with low-stakes practice with the ISAT testing platform.

Practice and Training Tests

The Practice and Training tests are available to any member of the public and can help students, parents, and other stakeholders become familiar with the testing platform and view the types of assessment items on operational tests. The tests can be accessed on the [Idaho Portal](#).

Test Security

To protect the validity and reliability of test outcomes, the summative ISATs are considered highly secure and should be managed as outlined in the [Assessment Integrity Guide](#).

Interim assessments may be used for collaboration among students within the classroom, but interim assessment materials shall not leave the classroom in digital or print form. To maintain the validity and reliability of interim assessment data, LEAs should exercise caution in sharing interim materials and reach out to staff at the Idaho Department of Education with any questions on item security.

Practice and training tests are available to the public and are not under any security measures. Stakeholders are free to access, share, and reproduce materials from the Practice and Training tests as needed.

Test Administration

Teachers and Test Administrators may administer ISAT Science assessments to students. The [TIDE User Guide](#) and the [Test Administrator User Guide](#) contain detailed information regarding users, accounts, rosters, and test administration.

School staff can set up interim and summative testing sessions and view interim assessments through the [Idaho Portal](#). Completion of the [TA Certification Course](#) is required to access many portal functions and must be taken once per school year.

Use Table 2 below to estimate time (in minutes) required to administer summative ISAT assessments (the estimated time per item type may also be used to allot classroom time for interim assessments).

Table 2: Estimated Time (minutes) of Administration of Summative ISAT Science Assessments

Assessment	Estimated time per Cluster	Estimated time per Standalone Item	Estimated time for Field Test Items	Total Estimated Time (minutes)
Elementary Science ISAT	9	2	10	88
Middle School Science ISAT	9	2	10	88
High School Science ISAT	10	2	10	96

Reporting and Data

To learn about accessing and using reporting systems, use the [Reporting Quick Guide](#).

The summative Science ISAT provides a scale score average for the state, district, school, roster, and an individual scale score for each student. The cut scores (scale scores that determine a student’s performance level) are shown below in Table 3.

Reporting is also available by Disciplinary Core Idea and Science and Engineering practice and can show whether the state, district, school, roster, or student is performing below, at/near, or above the performance expectation for that criterion.

Table 3: Science Cut Scores

Grade Level	Level 1 (Below Basic)	Level 2 (Basic)	Level 3 (Proficient)	Level 4 (Advanced)
5	400-479	480-505	506-533	534-600
8	700-776	777-806	807-831	832-900
11	1000-1081	1082-1107	1108-1145	1146-1200