



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

All 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) during the window of March 9-20, 2020. All 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will assess April 15, 2020. The ISA aligns with our Illinois Learning Standards in Science including life, physical, Earth and space science with engineering and technological design features imbedded in the other science domains. Science and Engineering Practices is a second focus of this assessment. The ISA represents Illinois' commitment to preparing all students for college and careers, including in the high-demand science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The assessment also satisfies federal accountability requirements.

The ISA is composed of three on-line sessions that should each require an hour. Students do not simply select an answer and fill in the bubble of a multiple-choice test. Rather, the ISA pushes students to apply their knowledge when they give answers, thus better preparing them for higher education and a career.

We encourage you to talk with your child (ren) about the importance of doing their best on the ISA, while communicating that the assessment yields only one piece of information about them and their school's progress. Students' attendance, classroom work, homework, projects, performance on local tests, participation in sports and extracurricular activities, and contributions to the school's climate and culture all help them grow and learn.

We all work together to ensure Illinois students build a cohesive understanding of science over time. Thank you for your role in developing lifelong learners and successful citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Laura Hill'.

Laura Hill  
Director of Assessment and Accountability  
School District U-46  
847-888-5000, extension 5677

