



Early Learning Assessment System - ISPROUT Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL) provides this FAQ to support the implementation of ISPROUT, Indiana's new early learning assessment system. Opt-in opportunities for [B-2](#) and [3-5](#) are ongoing.

Number	Question	Answer
1	What is the redesigned early learning assessment system for Indiana?	<p>Indiana's redesigned early learning assessment system includes three stages of assessment to accurately monitor children's growth and development over time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indiana State Performance Readiness and Observation of Understanding Tool (ISPROUT) Birth to Age 2: This phase of early learning assessment consists of educator observations and data aligned to Indiana's Early Learning Standards.• ISPROUT Ages 3-5: This assessment phase runs from ages three to five-year-olds still in preschool, consisting of a combination of direct child performance data and educator ratings aligned to the observations of children's daily routines and activities. This phase aligns to the current practices for Indiana's ISPROUT assessment system.• Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA): This third stage of assessment is administered to kindergarten students shortly after school starts. The KRA includes both direct assessment items and educator-led activities to yield observations. Children are assessed in all eight domains of the Early Learning Standards, as this provides the most in-depth picture of their developmental progress, strengths, and areas of need.
2	What is the implementation timeline for this new system?	<p>Opt-in, optional, administrations for the KRA and ISPROUT Ages 3-5 will begin in July 2024, and the opt-in administration for ISPROUT Birth to Age 2 will begin in January of 2025. Throughout this implementation timeline, standard assessment and reporting requirements for ISPROUT to fulfill Indiana's requirement for Indicator 7 will continue for students with identified disabilities served by the public school system.</p>
3	Why is this redesign important for	<p>The rethinking of Indiana's early learning assessment system has been an ongoing discussion among the Early Learning Advisory Committee, a group of stakeholders committed to making recommendations concerning the</p>



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	Indiana's children?	<p>availability, affordability, and quality of Indiana's early care and education.</p> <p>This new system will provide early indicators for children who are at risk of not meeting proficiency in literacy and mathematics at later stages in their education and is intended to be used by educators and families to improve early learning outcomes. With this new data, Indiana can paint a more accurate picture of how effectively we are preparing children for the next steps in their K-12 career.</p>
4	Why should schools/early education programs opt in to administer ISPROUT to all children?	<p>ISPROUT provides educators and families with information about their child's progress in all eight early learning domains through a developmentally appropriate assessment system. This information will identify strengths, uncover gaps, and support instructional plans to prepare children for kindergarten. Having actionable data will facilitate discussions between educators and families about how children can grow at home. ISPROUT focuses on learning domains that many assessments overlook, but are proven to have a high impact on a child's experience and achievements. ISPROUT is currently required to be administered to all students ages three through five with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).</p> <p>Administrators will also be able to access program-level reports. These results should not be used to evaluate educators.</p>
5	What areas are assessed with ISPROUT?	<p>ISPROUT covers eight early learning domains aligned to Indiana's Early Learning Standards: English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Creative Arts, Physical Health and Growth, Approaches to Play and Learning, and Student Wellbeing.</p>
6	When is ISPROUT administered?	<p>ISPROUT is administered year round. ISPROUT is completed either as an Entry, Interim, or Exit assessment. The Entry assessment is typically completed within the first six weeks when a child enters an early learning program. The Interim assessment is completed annually around the child's birthday. The Exit assessment occurs six weeks upon exit of the early learning program into kindergarten, at the end of services due to completion of goals, and completion of Pre-K. The Entry and Exit assessments must be taken at least six months apart.</p> <p>The 2024-2025 ISPROUT window is July 15, 2024-June 15, 2025.</p> <p>During this window, educators should complete observations in small increments and enter data by the closing date. More detailed information will be provided during training.</p>



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		More on this question is available in the Learning Lab video .
7	Can ISPROUT be administered using a staggered start date model?	ISPROUT can be administered at any time that aligns to the Entry, Interim, and Exit instances of the individual child. The assessment should be completed in small increments of time over the corresponding reporting window.
8	How long does it take to administer ISPROUT?	<p>The amount of time it will take to administer/conduct observations, score and review observational data, and input results within ISPROUT KReady System will vary between educators and classes. Educators must ensure that adequate time to provide high-quality observations aligned to the early learning domains occurs. Observations should be completed in small increments of time. Educators will be trained in strategies to record observations without adding additional time and work to normal classroom routines.</p> <p>More on this question is available in the Learning Lab video.</p>
10	How are children assessed?	Children may be assessed using various observations or specific-assigned tasks by educators based on ongoing non-bias observations of children's typical daily routines and activities. There will be a recommended sequence to follow when conducting ratings, but educators will be able to administer the assessed areas in any order.
11	Is ISPROUT available to all types of schools and early education programs?	<p>Any school (public, private, charter, or non public) based or community based early child care and education program may elect to administer ISPROUT to all children enrolled for ages three through five beginning in July of 2024. Birth to 2 participation begins January 2025..</p> <p>All accredited schools must continue to administer ISPROUT to children ages three through five who receive special education services using the entry and exit guidelines, including re-administering if a formerly tested student begins an IEP.</p>
12	<p>How are individual child results provided?</p> <p>When are results/scores available?</p>	<p>Assessment results are provided via Individual Student Reports (ISRs), which show the child's overall performance and area performance in the eight domains of early learning. Each ISR includes a performance indicator for each domain as well as an overall score.</p> <p>ISRs are available immediately to educators for children who complete the assessment. Educators are able to generate ISRs once all data is collected and added to the online system. Additionally, reports are available to send home to each child's family.</p>



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<p>13</p>	<p>Who can administer ISPROUT?</p>	<p>Educators administering ISPROUT must (1) be employed by the child’s school or district or early care and education program and (2) have successfully completed the required yearly training. It is strongly recommended that each child’s primary classroom educator or another educator who has regular contact with the child (e.g., a special education therapist, an intervention specialist or reading specialist in the schools or a co-educator/assistant educator in an early care program) administers the assessment. Administrators may assist as well, if they are knowledgeable about the child and have completed the required training.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>What training is required to administer ISPROUT?</p>	<p>Educators, administrators, trainers, and data managers are provided initial training in an asynchronous, synchronous, or blended format. Each school, district, or early care and education program is responsible for scheduling and conducting the educator training after an identified trainer has been trained. Refresher training is provided annually. Additionally, professional development is provided following the assessment window to support data results implementation.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>How can others provide support to educators with ISPROUT administration?</p>	<p>All test administrators must be employees of the school district or early care and education program and successfully complete the teacher training.</p> <p>Literacy specialists, intervention specialists, special education therapists, educators who work with multilingual learners, and other related services personnel who regularly work with a specific child, would be appropriate to provide information on the student. Early care and education program administrators or other staff members may also administer ISPROUT if they are familiar with the child and have completed the training.</p> <p>Example 1: A literacy specialist, who regularly works with young children in the classroom and successfully completed the educator training, could provide appropriate information on the students. The teacher of record would need to input the children’s scores into the online system.</p> <p>Example 2: A literacy specialist may assist with scoring observational language and literacy domain items by either leading the class in interactive literacy activities while the regular classroom teacher rates the children on the observational rubrics or vice versa.</p> <p>District employees or early care and education program employees who have not completed the educator training can support educators with completing the assessments in several other ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparing manipulatives for lessons; and ● Teaching the class while the primary classroom educator administers direct assessment items



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16	What equipment is required to successfully administer and support ISPROUT?	Technology is required for teachers. Data can be entered through the KReady web page or app. The app is not supported on cell phones. Detailed technology guidelines are posted on KReady .
17	Can ISPROUT be used to determine a need for special education services or eligibility?	ISPROUT can be used by schools as a component of the initial evaluation process to help determine a need for special education services. It cannot be the sole determination for eligibility, but may be used to aid in the decision-making process. Early care and education programs can use ISPROUT results to discuss and share concerns with parents, directing them to their local schools for testing.
18	If I administer ISPROUT, do I still have to give the KRI?	Yes, On My Way PreK programs that currently administer the KRI must continue to do so for the 2024-2025 year. Programs may opt-in and voluntarily choose to also administer ISPROUT, and it will be provided free of charge; but the KRI is the required assessment for On My Way Pre-K.

Contact IDOE's [Office of Kindergarten Readiness](#) or [Office of Student Assessment](#) with questions regarding Indiana's early learning assessment system or community based early care and education programs FSSA's [Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning](#).

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