



INVEST IN KIDS ACT ANNUAL ASSESMENT FAQs

WHY DO STUDENTS NEED TO BE ASSESSED ANNUALLY?

Per the *Invest in Kids Act*, the law that governs Illinois' Tax Credit Scholarship Program, scholarship recipients must be annually assessed at the qualified school where the student attends school, in the same manner in which students that attend public schools are annually assessed.

Testing administration and compliance is the responsibility of the [Illinois State Board of Education](#) (ISBE). Empower Illinois does not have the legal authority to make decisions regarding testing and questions should be directed to assessment@isbe.net.

WHICH STUDENTS NEED TO BE TESTED?

Any and all students in grades 3-11 that are awarded a scholarship must participate in testing that year.

- Students in grades 3-8 will take the IAR
- Students in grade 9 will take the PSAT
- Students in grade 10 will take the PSAT 10
- Students in grade 11 will take the SAT with Essay.

For more information and upcoming testing dates, please visit the ISBE's [website](#). you Please reach out to ISBE at assessment@isbe.net with any additional questions.

CAN I FILL OUT A TESTING WAIVER?

If, for any reason, a scholarship recipient is unable to be tested, school staff must maintain detailed documentation as to why the student did not test. Documentation for scholarship recipients who did not complete the IAR, PSAT, PSA10, and/or SAT must be submitted along with scores for all other scholarship recipients who did test. Additional information may be found [here](#).

Waivers for the IAR (required for scholarship recipients in grades 3-8) can be found [here](#). Visit [ISBE's website](#) for more information on testing exemptions.

IF A STUDENT HAS A VALID REASON FOR NOT TESTING, CAN THEY STILL PARTICIPATE IN TCS?

ISBE regulates and enforces testing compliance. Scholarship Granting Organizations, like Empower Illinois, do not have the legal authority to make testing decisions. Empower Illinois operates under good faith that, unless otherwise notified by ISBE, each participating school and family met the responsibilities of the testing requirement for purposes of providing future scholarships.