



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

James T. Meeks  
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

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September 18, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

We are excited to announce a [notice of award](#) for the development and administration of our Illinois Assessment of Readiness for English language arts and math in grades three through eight. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will partner with the vendor Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). DRC proposed high quality, cost effective solutions to achieve our vision of a computer adaptive assessment that returns results of machine scored items within 1 week of the end of the testing window, and all results within 30 days of the end of the testing window, making results more timely and relevant. DRC, in collaboration with ISBE and Illinois educators, will build on the foundation of PARCC content and transition Illinois to a computer adaptive assessment by 2021.

The test this spring in 2019 will have much in common with the assessment from the past four years, most importantly its rigor and alignment to the Illinois Learning Standards. The assessment will maintain comparability to previous year's results. Additionally, DRC will lead the development of a Spanish native language assessment of mathematics, providing greater and more accessible opportunities for all students to demonstrate what they know and can do.

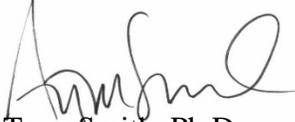
Many districts throughout the state are familiar with DRC's platform, as DRC hosts our English Learner proficiency assessment, ACCESS 2.0. DRC has experience tailoring PARCC content with other test items to create a customized state assessment, as evidenced by its work with Louisiana. DRC has also administered large-scale, statewide assessment programs in states such as Wisconsin, South Carolina, and Nevada.

As I [shared in February](#), our commitment to excellence and equity drives our assessment design. The active and ongoing partnership of educators and practitioners has made Illinois a national leader in assessments. Together, we will work to ensure that the Illinois Assessments of Readiness continue to provide educators, families, and students with rich and actionable data about students' learning and academic growth. The results of our assessments help educators tailor instruction and ensure all students receive the individual supports they need to graduate prepared for college and career. As the foundation of our support and accountability system, our assessments provide transparency for families and communities statewide.

We look forward to continuing to work together to evolve our Illinois Assessments of Readiness to serve educators, students, and families with a more useful understanding of where students are in their learning journey today and how ready they are for what's in front of them tomorrow.

Please contact ISBE's Division of Assessment and Accountability at (866) 317-6034 with any questions. I also encourage an administrator and/or assessment coordinator from each district to join the ISBE assessment division's weekly webinar at 10 a.m. every Friday. Please find details at [www.isbe.net/Pages/Assessment-Communications.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Assessment-Communications.aspx).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Smith', written in a cursive style.

Tony Smith, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Education