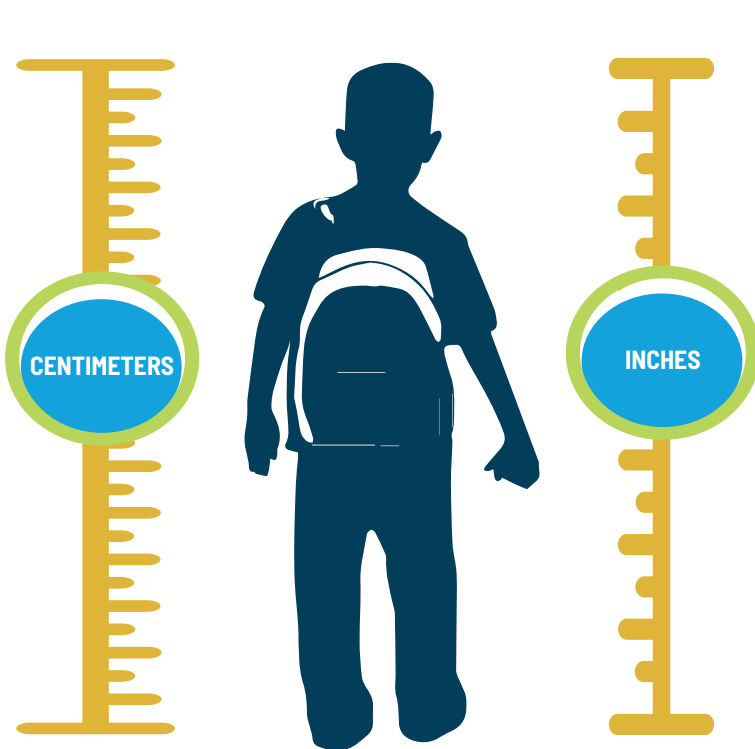




Understanding Comparability

“Comparability” means having features in common that enable someone to draw appropriate conclusions when making a comparison. In assessment, we talk about results being comparable. Comparable results help schools make valid inferences about student performance and growth over time so that they can provide targeted support to students and can improve instructional practices.



The Illinois Assessment of Readiness measures students’ mastery of the same skills and concepts with fewer questions. It’s similar to measuring a student’s height in inches, rather than in centimeters. Centimeters provide a more precise measurement than inches, but both assess the same quality – height. Both give “comparable” information that you can use in the same way to make the same kinds of decisions.



The Illinois Assessment of Readiness reduces testing time by one-third to six hours or less and still maintains comparability to the previous assessment by:

- 1 Measuring students’ mastery of the same standards
- 2 Including an “anchor set” of the same questions between assessments
- 3 Using precise statistics to link results
- 4 Implementing improvements thoughtfully over multiple years

