March 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Every spring, Chicago Public Schools administers federally required assessments that not only show how our students are growing academically compared to their peers across the state, but are also used to determine where additional school support and resources are needed. For the second year in a row, CPS will administer the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) to measure student mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards in English language arts and mathematics in 3rd-8th grades.

Students in 3rd-8th grades will take the IAR in English language arts and math between March 11 and April 24, 2020. Students receiving accommodated tests on paper will take the assessment between March 11th and April 3rd. Per Illinois State Board of Education requirements, students in 3rd grade will test online this year for the first time—joining 4th through 8th grade students who have tested online in previous years. With this year being the first year 3rd grade will test online, the district is working to provide teachers and students with the support and resources they need for a successful spring test administration.

Here are practical ways you can help your child prepare to do their best on the IAR:

● Talk to your child about testing so they understand why they are being tested.
● Make sure your child gets a good night’s sleep the night before they test.
● Remind your student(s) to take their time, listen to and read all directions, and answer one question at a time.
● Help your child maintain a positive mindset by reminding them of their strengths and accomplishments.
● If your child is sick on a testing day, please keep them at home. They will be able to take the test when they are healthy and able to return to school.

If you have any questions about the IAR, please reach out to your school’s principal. Thank you for your partnership in your student’s academic success.

Sincerely,

Sherly Chavarria, Ed.D
Chief Officer of Teaching & Learning
Chicago Public Schools