



Marion Community Unit School District No. 2

1700 W. Cherry Street
Marion, Illinois 62959



March 17, 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

During the weeks of March 23-April 15, 2026, mandated State testing begins. The schedule below provides additional information regarding the assessments. Results are reviewed by Marion CUSD 2 staff and administration and used for school improvement. Parents will receive results in Fall 2026.

Assessment	Administration Date(s)	Student Group(s)
Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) for English Language Arts & Mathematics	March 23-March 27, 2026 March 23-April 2, 2026	Grades 3-5 Grades 6-8
Illinois Science Assessment	March 30- April 1, 2026 March 26-March 30, 2026	Grade 5 Grade 8
PreACT 9 PreACT ACT	April 15, 2026	Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11

State assessments are aligned to the Illinois' learning standards and aimed to deliver clear and timely information about what students know, can do, and whether they can demonstrate the academic preparation necessary to succeed as citizens and in college and careers.

The tests seek to assess what matters in today's world. The assessment system not only measures mastery of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies & Science knowledge, but also uses technology to include questions and tasks that mirror the type of work students will encounter both in their current classrooms and post high school.

The authentic assessments invite students to think deeply and construct their own solution to challenging tasks and situations. The assessments require students to analyze information and explain their answers; therefore, better reflecting classroom lessons and experiences. At the conclusion of the tests, students may be asked to provide feedback about the assessment.

As always, we want your child to perform his or her best. You can help your child do this by:

1. making sure, if possible, that your child attends school on the days of testing;
2. making sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before testing;
3. providing breakfast on the mornings of testing;
4. reminding your child to ask the teacher questions if he or she does not understand the test directions;
5. letting your child know that you have confidence in his or her ability to do their best; and
6. advising your child not to worry about the test-just do the best he or she can.

Please contact your child's teacher, principal, or me if you want additional information or have further questions. Additional information can be found on the district's website at www.marionunit2.org.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Watts
Assistant Superintendent