

Uses of the Iowa Assessment

The Iowa Assessments have been traditionally used to inform a variety of educational decisions. The purpose of any large-scale assessment should be to complement and supplement other valuable information available to educators and parents. Large-scale assessment is not designed to replace formative, classroom-based assessment.

The Iowa Assessments were designed and developed to measure student achievement and growth in valid and reliable ways. *As the developers of the Iowa Assessments, Iowa Testing Programs is a strong advocate for the inclusion of multiple and diverse measures each contributing in different ways to an overall picture of a student or school district.*

Iowa Testing Programs encourages frequent communication about testing purposes most important to schools or districts. The purposes of testing should also help districts with the selection of the most appropriate score reports and help determine how best to interpret and use the test results. The table below provides a description of the most important and valid uses of the Iowa Assessments.

Purposes of Large-Scale Assessment	Information from the Iowa Assessments
Identify strengths and weaknesses of students	Profiles of student performance and growth provide this information for parents and teachers
Inform instruction	Setting class and school growth goals through information provided by eITP and Iowa Core Reports
Monitor student growth	Establish individual student growth goals through eITP reports
Inform college readiness	On-track college-readiness information provided for students
Measure core standards	Iowa Core reports for students and schools
Inform placement decisions	Scores used for placement into gifted/talented programs, individual education plans, and dual enrollment credit programs
Make comparisons	Comparisons to nation, state, AEA and district through annual board reports and national percentile rank scores
Evaluate programs	Informs state reports such as STEM initiatives and Annual Condition of Education
Predict future performance	Predicted ACT and SAT scores
Support accountability	Meets NCLB and ESSA requirements for content, rigor, grade levels and subject areas