



Parent Message

College and Career Ready

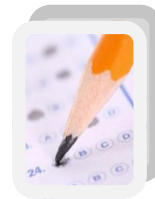
The New Indiana Academic Standards clearly outline what students should know and be able to do for each content/subject area and grade level or grade band.

The standards have been validated as college and career ready, which means students who successfully master these objectives by the time they graduate from high school will be ready to go directly into the workplace or a post-secondary educational opportunity without the need for remediation.

Find the standards here:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/standards>

I-STEP+ What to Expect



New Standards Mean New Assessments

This Spring 2015, the I-STEP+ assessment will be different than the past, as it will measure standards that are more challenging and require higher levels of problem solving, writing, and critical thinking. These types of skills are particularly important in preparing students for college and/or careers.

New Item Types

Students will be able to use computer tools to answer new types of items. Teachers are providing practice with these technology enhanced questions. Find them here: <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/experience-college-and-career-ready-assessment>

Because Standards are More Rigorous, More Support May be Needed at Home

Stay in contact with your child's teachers. Ask how you can support your child and learn more about the new curriculum to help with the transition.

When is I-Step+ Given?

ISTEP+ Part 1 (*Applied Skills/Paper & Pencil) March 2-March 11

ISTEP+ Part 2 (*Multiple Choice/Technology) April 27- May 15

*Some schools may opt to do both online or paper pencil, depending on the situation for the individual school, which could affect the test window.

How can you help your child?

*Keep things in perspective- no single test can determine the ability or future of a child.

*Become familiar with the new standards and check out the practice questions online. <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8>

*Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep and has a healthy breakfast during test weeks, and discuss ways to reduce stress.