

# IDAHO STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT TEST

## What is a Standard?

The Idaho State Achievement Standards are the minimum standards to be used by every school district in the State in order to establish a level of academic achievement necessary to graduate from Idaho's public schools. Each school district may set standards more rigorous than these state achievement standards.

Achievement standards are specific subject criteria which, when measured, show a specific level of content knowledge and demonstrated application. In order to create a K-12 seamless education system, achievement standards have been created in six subject areas for years K-12: math, science, social studies, language arts/communications, health, and humanities.

### Example of a standard:

#### **Grades 9-12**

**Math:** Solve algebraic equations and equalities.

**Reading:** Read for technical information/comprehend technical text.

**Language Arts:** Write and edit for correctness and clarity. Apply rules and conventions of the following:

- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Capitalization
- Spelling

## What is the ISAT?

ISAT stands for Idaho Standards Achievement Tests. The ISAT encompasses multiple-choice tests in reading, math, and language usage in grades 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. The ISAT is offered in the fall and spring each academic year.

The ISAT became a required Idaho state assessment in 2002. In 1994, Idaho began developing state content/achievement standards. In 2000 and 2001, the State Legislature approved the achievement standards for kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. With the standards in place, the State Board of Education appointed a committee to find an assessment that would provide the confirmation that those standards were being taught in Idaho's schools. In the fall of 2002, the

State Board introduced the ISAT and began testing students in grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> in every Idaho school.

The test is:

- A multiple-choice test
- Delivered on a computer
- Includes subjects: reading, math & language usage
- Offered in the fall and spring
- Given to grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

## Proficiency Definitions

### ADVANCED: Exceeds Standards

The student demonstrates thorough knowledge and mastery of skills that allow him/her to function independently above their current educational level.

- The student demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of all information relevant to the topic at level.
- The student demonstrates comprehension and understanding of knowledge and skills above his/her grade level.
- The student can perform skills or processes independently without any significant errors.

### PROFICIENT: Meets Standards

The student demonstrates mastery of knowledge and skills that allow them to function independently on all major concepts and skills related to their educational level.

- The student demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of all information relevant to the topic, at level.
- The student can perform skills or processes independently without any significant errors.

### BASIC: Below Standards

The student demonstrates basic knowledge and skills usage but cannot operate independently on concepts and skills related to his/her educational level.  
Requires remediation and assistance to complete tasks without significant errors.

- The student has an incomplete knowledge of the topic and/or misconceptions about some information.
- The student requires assistance and coaching to complete tasks without errors.

#### BELOW BASIC: Critically Below Standards

The student demonstrates significant lack of skills and knowledge and is unable to complete basic skills or knowledge sets without significant remediation.

- The student has critical deficiencies of relevant knowledge of topic and/or misconceptions about some information.
- The student cannot complete any skill set without significant assistance and coaching.

#### ISAT as a Graduation Requirement

The State Board of Education (SBOE) believes strongly in making sure all students have a basic level of knowledge in math, reading and language usage by the time he/she exits high school. To ensure this result, the SBOE enacted a rule to require all students to pass the ISAT in those areas to receive a high school diploma. The state Legislature approved that rule in January 2004.