

## Glossary –Education Terms

### List of Indiana's state- or federally-mandated tests:

*ISTEP+*, Parts 1 & 2

*IREAD-3; ECA (End-of-Course Assessments)* covering Algebra I and English 10I

*STAR (Indiana Standards Tool for Alternate Reporting)* in grades 3-8 & 10, covering English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies

*WIDA (World-class Instructional Design & Assessments)* for English Language Learners

*ACCUPLACER, Parts 1 & 2*

*NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress)* student samplings annually in grades 2, 8, & 12

formative tests – The goal of formative assessment, including *diagnostic testing*, is to allow modification of teaching and learning activities to improve student achievement. Usually a range of formal and informal assessment procedures is conducted by classroom teachers.

summative tests - The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against some standard or benchmark.

Common Core - The **Common Core State Standards Initiative** is an educational initiative in the United States that details what [K–12](#) students should know in [English language arts](#) and [mathematics](#) at the end of each grade. The initiative, sponsored by the [National Governors Association](#) (NGA) and the [Council of Chief State School Officers](#) (CCSSO), seeks to establish consistent educational standards across the states as well as to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter credit-bearing courses at two- or four-year college programs or to enter the workforce.<sup>[1]</sup> (Although Indiana was an early adopter of Common Core standards, by April 2014, it had rejected that decision in favor of creating its own state standards.)

Indiana Standards - In April of 2014, the Indiana State Board of Education approved the adoption of new standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. These new standards are the result of a process designed to identify, evaluate, synthesize, and create high-quality, rigorous standards for Indiana students. They were validated as “college and career ready” by the Indiana Education Roundtable, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana State Board of Education, and the Indiana Center for Education and Career Innovation [CECI now dissolved]. This means that students who successfully master these objectives for what they should know and be able to do in the disciplines of Math and English/Language Arts by the time they graduate from high school will be ready to go directly into the workplace or a postsecondary educational opportunity without the need of remediation.

*ISTEP+* -The purpose of the *Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus (ISTEP+)* program is to measure student achievement in the subject areas of English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science (Grades 4 and 6), and Social Studies (Grades 5 and 7). In particular, *ISTEP+* reports student achievement levels according to the Indiana Academic Standards that were adopted by the Indiana State Board of Education. An Applied Skills open-ended

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Assessment (Part 1) and a Multiple-Choice and Technology-Enhanced item Assessment (Part 2), which are required components of the *ISTEP+* program, are used to measure these standards.

*IREAD* - The purpose of the *Indiana Reading Evaluation And Determination (IREAD-3)* assessment is to measure foundational reading standards through grade three. Based on the Indiana Academic Standards, *IREAD-3* is a summative assessment that was developed in accordance with House Enrolled Act 1367 (also known as Public Law 109, 2010), which "requires the evaluation of reading skills for students who are in grade three beginning in the Spring of 2012 to ensure that all students can read proficiently before moving on to grade four."

*ECA - ISTEP+ Algebra 1 and English 10 End of Course Assessments (ECA)* -- Criterion-referenced assessments developed specifically as graduation examinations for students in grades 10, 11, or 12.

*WIDA ACCESS: ACCESS for ELLs [English Language Learners] 2.0* – A secure large-scale English language proficiency assessment administered to Kindergarten through 12th grade students who have been identified as English language learners (ELLs). It is given annually in WIDA Consortium member states to monitor students' progress in acquiring academic English. *ACCESS for ELLs 2.0* is available only to Consortium member states.

*ISTAR* - Federal law (IDEA 2008) and state law require that all students participate in Indiana's assessment system. For most students with special needs, this law requires participation in:

*ISTEP+* assessments, with or without accommodations. For students with significant cognitive disabilities, the Case Conference Committee may determine that the Indiana Standards Tool for Alternate Reporting (*ISTAR*) is the more appropriate assessment. *ISTAR* is the only alternate assessment that is recognized in Indiana for the purpose of statewide accountability.

*PSAT* - This a [standardized test](#) administered by the [College Board](#) and cosponsored by the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (*PSAT/NMSQT* [National Merit Scholarship Corporation \(NMSC\)](#) in the [United States](#). Approximately 3.5 million students take the *PSAT/NMSQT* each year.<sup>[1]</sup> In 2013, 1.59 million high school sophomores and 1.55 million high school juniors took the *PSAT*.<sup>[2]</sup> Younger students are also eligible to take the test. The scores from the *PSAT/NMSQT* are used to determine eligibility and qualification for the [National Merit Scholarship Program](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

*ACCUPLACER* – A product of the College Board, the multiple-choice questions assess reading, math, and computer skills, and a composition component assesses writing skills.

CTE – Career Technology Education

WBL – Work-based Learning