Iowa Learning Expectations and Academic Development Assessment Professional Development Pacing Guide

The Iowa Learning Expectations and Academic Development Assessment is a new test that replaces the ISASP (Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress). It was developed by Iowa Testing Programs at the University of Iowa in collaboration with Iowa educators and was first administered to students in spring 2026.

The purpose of this professional development is to provide background information about how and why the Iowa Learning Expectations and Academic Development Assessment was developed, familiarize staff with the new achievement levels, and provide an opportunity for educators to identify how the Iowa Learning Expectations and Academic Development Assessment performance level descriptors (PLDs) align with the Iowa State Standards that they use in their classrooms daily.

Approximate Time: 45 minutes - 1 hour

Professional Learning Objective: Educators will engage with the Iowa Academic Standards and Iowa Learning Expectations and Academic Development Assessment Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) to deepen understanding of the new assessment, identify patterns between the standards and the PLDs and begin to make educational decisions based around data.

Resources

Iowa Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy, **Iowa Academic Standards for Mathematics**, **Iowa Learning Expectations and Academic Development Assessment PLDs for each grade level/subject represented in the meeting**, **2026 Iowa Learning Expectations and Academic Development Assessment PPT**

Segment	Instructions
Introduction of Iowa Learning Expectations and Academic Development Assessment Slides 1-8	• Present the 2026 Iowa Learning Expectations and Academic Development Assessment PPT to the group and share the objective and agenda • Share the information on the slides, allowing time for staff discussion around the changes.

Understanding the achievement levels
Slides 9-20
	• Starting on slide 9 “Why did we move to four achievement levels” facilitate discussion around the new levels
	  • How could having four achievement levels help us better understand what our students can do?
	  • What might be some ways we could communicate what these achievement levels mean to our families and our community?
	  • Knowing that this is a summative assessment and part of our greater balanced assessment system, what resources do we have to determine what gaps a student might have? - This discussion should be kept broad and used to activate thinking for the data dive later

Segment	Instructions
Engagement Activity Slide 21-22	• Distribute the Iowa Academic Standards and the Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) to educators based on grade level and/or subject • Educators should work in grade level and/or subject specific teams to review their PLDs, answering the questions on the slide • Take time for groups to share one interesting finding from their work with the larger group.
What to Expect from the Results Slides 23-26	• We anticipate that there will be many questions about the Iowa Learning Expectations and Academic Development Assessment as we roll this out. Make sure to spend time to have discussions around these slides and ensure that everyone is clear on the message.

Data Dive: From Results to Action
Slide 27
	• Allow educators to access their results from the Iowa Learning Expectations and Academic Development Assessment. Follow the directions on the slide to allow teams to discuss their results.
	  • If using this as a Leadership Team it will be important that the person sharing the results has access to show whole school level data
	  • We recommend having a note-taker to document ideas that come out of this section.

Key Messages and Talking Points Slides 28-31	• Share these slides with educators as a summary of their learning and an opportunity to discuss how to share this information with families and the community. • Please remind staff that the Department will be completing standard setting for the Iowa Learning Expectations and Academic Development Assessment science test next summer and encourage them to keep their ears open if they are interested in applying to be on the team.