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# ISASP

IOWA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT  
of STUDENT PROGRESS

**Student Performance Changes  
2023 to 2024**

Prepared By  
Iowa Testing Programs

## ISASP Student Performance Changes

The Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) measures student achievement and understanding of the Iowa Core Standards in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics and Science. Indicators of student proficiency and growth from grade-to-grade are provided. ISASP assesses students in English Language Arts and Mathematics for students in grades 3–11. The Science assessment is administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 10. The assessments, offered in both paper-and pencil and computer-based formats during the last quarter of the academic year, include multiple-choice and technology-enhanced items, constructed response items, and open-ended essay questions.

Understanding how students change and grow over time is extremely important as teachers and schools design education programs tied to standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Student achievement and growth can be characterized in a variety of ways, including proficiency, growth scores, and status relative to a goal such as college readiness. Three different types of metrics are available to help interpret ISASP results. A *proficiency-based reference* provides students and educators with descriptions and indicators of levels of proficiency as determined by the state of Iowa. Proficiency-based scores are criterion-referenced and reflect the level of achievement compared to the Iowa Core standards. A *normative-based reference* is provided through the state of Iowa percentile ranks that are available after each administration. A *growth reference* provides a metric for examining the change between two or more administrations of an assessment. ISASP was first administered in the spring of 2019, the second administration of ISASP was spring 2021 (after COVID cancelled the assessment in 2020) and the third administration was spring 2022. This document summarizes the changes in student performance for all test takers as well as for a matched set of test takers that completed both the 2023 and 2024 administrations. This document is designed to complement available information on proficiency rates and state percentile ranks.

### ISASP Scale

The primary functions of the ISASP Scale Score are (1) to provide a consistent metric for translating ISASP scores into the standards-based achievement levels adopted by the Iowa State Board of Education of Not-Yet-Proficient, Proficient, and Advanced; (2) to establish a common metric for scores on ISASP forms across years that can be responsive to changes in assessment design such as adaptive testing; (3) to support future efforts related to metrics for student growth; and (4) to determine how far students are from the various proficiency levels without depending upon the changing raw scores across forms.

Table 1 provides the means and standard deviations of the ISASP scale score distributions used to develop the raw score to scale score conversion tables for the ISASP program. These can be used as reference points for future administrations. The steadily increasing means from grade-to-grade establish the expected change for grade cohorts. The ISASP scale scores can be used as a direct measure of year-to-year change on a common metric in a change-score growth model.

The distributions of ISASP scores also exhibit the property of steadily increasing variability across grades.

**Table 1. Means and Standard Deviations of the ISASP Scale Score Distributions for 2019**

<i>Grade</i>	<b>Mean Scale Score</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
03	409	28.7
04	432	34.4
05	454	41.3
06	476	45.5
07	500	50.0
08	521	55.0
09	544	60.5
10	568	60.5
11	593	60.5

### Average State Results for All Test Takers

The performance of all public and accredited private schools in the State of Iowa in 2024 is described in Table 2 using the average scale score metric.

**Table 2. Average Scale Scores for 2024 and 2023 by Subject and Grade**

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<b>2024</b>			<b>2023</b>			
		<b>N-Count</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>N-Count</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	
<i>ELA</i>	03	38556	408.6	27.5	38005	411.0	27.6	
	04	38873	435.7	34.3	37734	435.8	34.1	
	05	38548	458.7	40.6	37420	457.0	39.7	
	06	38162	485.5	43.4	37182	483.1	43.7	
	07	37995	512.4	49.7	38248	508.5	49.5	
	08	38854	530.9	49.6	38976	529.4	50.7	
	09	40079	544.6	57.6	40524	536.7	55.7	
	10	40159	571.7	62.2	39660	569.4	61.3	
	11	38404	592.8	59.2	37212	591.2	59.6	
	<i>Math</i>	03	38585	412.8	29.9	37994	412.0	29.9
		04	38896	434.4	37.4	37727	434.9	37.3
05		38572	454.3	41.0	37403	454.8	41.0	
06		38190	478.6	47.3	37169	477.1	46.6	
07		38052	500.5	52.7	38230	499.4	52.3	
08		38911	531.3	58.6	38951	528.8	57.5	
09		40160	541.1	64.8	40498	539.2	64.1	
10		40259	565.0	58.7	39626	566.6	59.1	
11		38519	595.6	67.1	37182	597.7	66.4	
<i>Science</i>		05	38557	461.8	37.5	37325	462.4	37.5
		08	38862	528.6	52.0	38843	528.0	52.0
	10	40152	566.7	64.2	39566	568.0	63.1	

## State Results for Matched Cohorts

Tables 3 to 7 provide results for matched cohorts of students. Matching records for 2023 and 2024 ISASP was done so that only students that completed tests in both years were included. All students in the state datasets had verified state identification numbers. Students were removed from the matched datasets if they did not complete the applicable test for both years (i.e., removed from the ELA dataset if they did not have an ELA score for both 2023 and 2024). This process resulted in the final matched datasets with student records for Grades 4-11 in 2024 matched to their records for Grades 3-10 in 2023 for ELA and Mathematics. Science is only administered in Grades 5, 8, and 10, so there were no students in 2023 that also completed Science in 2024.

**Table 3. Average Scale Scores for Matched Cohort by Race/Ethnicity by Grade for ELA**

Race	2024				2023		
	N-Count	Grade	Mean	SD	Grade	Mean	SD
Asian	938	04	441.5	34.6	03	415.2	27.5
African American	2366	04	414.2	32.1	03	393.3	25.3
Hispanic	4335	04	422.3	32.8	03	398.9	25.2
Two or more races	1912	04	430.6	34.4	03	407.0	27.3
American Indian	131	04	420.3	30.3	03	396.6	23.0
N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander	217	04	411.0	28.8	03	389.3	21.1
White	26848	04	441.2	32.5	03	415.3	26.7
Asian	933	05	467.4	42.9	04	442.6	37.0
African American	2238	05	434.6	36.7	04	414.8	32.5
Hispanic	4407	05	443.4	37.5	04	422.2	32.7
Two or more races	1904	05	453.7	40.0	04	431.2	34.1
American Indian	119	05	443.9	35.3	04	422.2	29.3
N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander	202	05	425.8	34.6	04	406.3	30.9
White	26693	05	464.8	38.9	04	440.7	32.7
Asian	987	06	495.9	46.7	05	464.5	42.4
African American	2238	06	456.7	38.0	05	429.9	35.0
Hispanic	4257	06	467.3	40.3	05	439.5	37.4
Two or more races	1838	06	479.2	44.1	05	452.1	40.1
American Indian	140	06	464.1	36.6	05	435.4	34.7
N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander	201	06	450.6	36.2	05	424.2	34.2
White	26471	06	492.6	41.2	05	463.1	38.1
Asian	907	07	528.1	52.5	06	494.0	46.8
African American	2289	07	480.6	46.1	06	454.9	39.9
Hispanic	4367	07	493.4	46.9	06	464.3	41.3
Two or more races	1622	07	506.7	50.1	06	478.6	43.8
American Indian	130	07	491.9	43.6	06	462.5	41.1
N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander	196	07	477.9	48.8	06	449.4	42.0
White	26348	07	520.3	46.8	06	489.9	41.8
Asian	889	08	545.6	50.4	07	523.0	54.2
African American	2279	08	496.0	46.3	07	475.3	45.3
Hispanic	4402	08	511.3	47.6	07	487.5	46.8
Two or more races	1707	08	522.8	49.6	07	501.7	50.3
American Indian	130	08	517.5	43.8	07	491.7	43.2
N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander	181	08	486.9	39.8	07	464.9	38.2
White	27207	08	538.9	46.6	07	516.3	47.1
Asian	835	09	562.1	58.9	08	543.0	52.8
African American	2312	09	505.3	52.0	08	491.8	48.2
Hispanic	4550	09	524.8	53.5	08	510.8	49.0
Two or more races	1646	09	539.6	57.9	08	524.0	51.5
American Indian	119	09	528.1	54.6	08	508.9	51.3
N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander	191	09	495.3	51.8	08	485.2	45.2
White	27557	09	554.7	54.0	08	537.5	47.8

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<i>Asian</i>	892	10	592.7	66.6	09	555.0	57.1
<i>African American</i>	2214	10	529.9	56.6	09	499.3	50.7
<i>Hispanic</i>	4700	10	549.0	58.4	09	516.1	52.5
<i>Two or more races</i>	1642	10	563.6	61.9	09	531.3	54.6
<i>American Indian</i>	118	10	552.7	62.1	09	518.3	55.5
<i>N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander</i>	150	10	521.7	51.4	09	493.1	50.5
<i>White</i>	28183	10	581.7	58.9	09	546.7	52.6
<i>Asian</i>	872	11	614.0	66.9	10	593.4	66.4
<i>African American</i>	1989	11	549.3	54.6	10	529.2	54.8
<i>Hispanic</i>	4414	11	569.9	55.6	10	548.4	58.3
<i>Two or more races</i>	1426	11	585.3	60.6	10	566.2	61.3
<i>American Indian</i>	99	11	568.1	51.5	10	541.2	48.4
<i>N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander</i>	116	11	547.0	48.4	10	529.0	48.6
<i>White</i>	27548	11	600.9	56.4	10	580.3	57.8

**Table 4. Average Scale Scores for Matched Cohort by Race/Ethnicity by Grade for Mathematics**

<i>Race</i>	<b>2024</b>				<b>2023</b>		
	N-Count	Grade	Mean	SD	Grade	Mean	SD
<i>Asian</i>	940	04	443.0	40.5	03	418.7	33.4
<i>African American</i>	2376	04	407.5	29.4	03	391.4	23.7
<i>Hispanic</i>	4341	04	418.0	32.0	03	398.1	25.3
<i>Two or more races</i>	1915	04	427.0	36.4	03	406.7	29.8
<i>American Indian</i>	132	04	415.0	33.8	03	396.6	24.7
<i>N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander</i>	217	04	405.2	26.9	03	388.0	20.2
<i>White</i>	26867	04	441.0	36.5	03	416.8	29.3
<i>Asian</i>	934	05	471.9	49.3	04	444.9	41.9
<i>African American</i>	2239	05	429.5	33.2	04	409.1	29.5
<i>Hispanic</i>	4409	05	438.1	35.9	04	418.6	32.6
<i>Two or more races</i>	1904	05	447.3	40.0	04	427.9	36.7
<i>American Indian</i>	120	05	434.7	35.8	04	419.8	32.6
<i>N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander</i>	203	05	423.9	31.3	04	400.5	24.8
<i>White</i>	26715	05	460.3	40.2	04	440.7	36.4
<i>Asian</i>	988	06	498.6	56.3	05	471.6	48.8
<i>African American</i>	2243	06	444.4	35.3	05	426.9	31.7
<i>Hispanic</i>	4261	06	458.2	39.8	05	437.0	35.6
<i>Two or more races</i>	1846	06	469.4	46.1	05	447.8	39.8
<i>American Indian</i>	140	06	453.6	36.9	05	432.8	33.7
<i>N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander</i>	200	06	441.4	34.2	05	421.0	31.1
<i>White</i>	26502	06	486.2	46.1	05	460.8	40.0
<i>Asian</i>	907	07	523.6	66.0	06	496.5	56.4
<i>African American</i>	2316	07	465.1	38.7	06	445.3	35.6
<i>Hispanic</i>	4381	07	479.2	43.4	06	456.5	38.8
<i>Two or more races</i>	1631	07	491.6	51.6	06	470.3	45.7
<i>American Indian</i>	130	07	475.7	47.0	06	452.7	40.2

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<i>N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander</i>	200	07	461.5	41.2	06	443.3	35.8
<i>White</i>	26383	07	508.5	51.9	06	484.3	45.8
<i>Asian</i>	890	08	561.1	71.4	07	522.5	64.9
<i>African American</i>	2302	08	490.1	44.3	07	463.4	38.1
<i>Hispanic</i>	4424	08	507.5	49.5	07	477.8	43.7
<i>Two or more races</i>	1716	08	520.4	56.9	07	489.0	51.1
<i>American Indian</i>	131	08	508.7	54.7	07	479.6	48.1
<i>N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander</i>	184	08	487.1	38.7	07	458.3	34.5
<i>White</i>	27253	08	540.2	57.4	07	507.3	51.5
<i>Asian</i>	838	09	573.0	80.2	08	555.1	68.4
<i>African American</i>	2319	09	498.3	46.4	08	489.2	43.9
<i>Hispanic</i>	4558	09	517.5	54.5	08	507.6	48.7
<i>Two or more races</i>	1661	09	533.2	64.3	08	519.8	57.2
<i>American Indian</i>	120	09	514.5	51.6	08	505.4	53.1
<i>N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander</i>	191	09	496.5	44.4	08	485.4	41.1
<i>White</i>	27614	09	551.2	63.7	08	537.5	56.7
<i>Asian</i>	893	10	597.2	75.4	09	576.0	83.1
<i>African American</i>	2237	10	529.0	43.4	09	498.8	46.7
<i>Hispanic</i>	4726	10	541.8	47.0	09	515.0	52.8
<i>Two or more races</i>	1655	10	554.3	55.7	09	528.0	61.6
<i>American Indian</i>	121	10	544.9	53.1	09	517.8	57.0
<i>N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander</i>	156	10	520.2	32.8	09	492.8	41.6
<i>White</i>	28250	10	573.4	58.3	09	549.8	63.4
<i>Asian</i>	874	11	632.5	84.4	10	603.1	77.3
<i>African American</i>	2006	11	549.8	46.9	10	529.9	42.3
<i>Hispanic</i>	4449	11	568.5	55.5	10	545.2	47.8
<i>Two or more races</i>	1434	11	583.9	67.2	10	559.8	58.3
<i>American Indian</i>	98	11	562.8	47.1	10	535.8	40.4
<i>N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander</i>	122	11	546.9	37.7	10	530.7	39.2
<i>White</i>	27635	11	604.2	66.3	10	576.4	58.5

**Table 5. Average Scale Scores for Matched Cohort by Individualized Education Plan (IEP) by Subject and Grade**

Subject	IEP	N-Count	2024			2023		
			Grade	Mean	SD	Grade	Mean	SD
ELA	No	31275	04	442.4	30.9	03	415.9	25.7
	Yes	5472	04	402.3	29.0	03	384.6	21.4
	No	31244	05	466.5	37.0	04	442.3	31.0
	Yes	5252	05	418.3	31.6	04	399.6	27.6
	No	31306	06	493.2	39.9	05	464.1	36.7
	Yes	4826	06	442.7	34.6	05	414.4	29.5
	No	31331	07	521.4	45.3	06	490.6	40.5
	Yes	4528	07	460.4	38.2	06	437.0	33.3
	No	32371	08	539.5	45.2	07	516.8	46.1
	Yes	4424	08	477.2	38.7	07	455.8	35.5
	No	33042	09	554.9	52.8	08	537.9	46.6
	Yes	4168	09	485.0	42.2	08	472.6	39.0
	No	33868	10	581.7	58.3	09	546.6	51.8
	Yes	4031	10	507.7	42.1	09	478.3	37.4
	No	33140	11	600.3	56.2	10	579.9	57.4
	Yes	3324	11	529.3	40.4	10	506.0	40.4
Math	No	31290	04	440.1	36.1	03	416.3	29.0
	Yes	5498	04	406.6	30.6	03	389.1	23.3
	No	31256	05	460.7	39.5	04	440.5	35.7
	Yes	5268	05	421.9	32.1	04	404.1	29.7
	No	31333	06	485.7	45.7	05	460.8	39.6
	Yes	4847	06	438.7	34.2	05	419.4	29.4
	No	31393	07	508.1	51.3	06	483.9	45.1
	Yes	4555	07	455.0	34.2	06	435.3	32.2
	No	32437	08	539.6	57.0	07	506.8	50.9
	Yes	4463	08	479.3	37.4	07	452.2	32.6
	No	33097	09	550.5	63.3	08	537.0	56.0
	Yes	4204	09	485.2	38.1	08	475.6	35.5
	No	33984	10	572.5	57.8	09	548.9	63.1
	Yes	4054	10	514.7	32.7	09	482.3	34.3
	No	33267	11	602.8	66.2	10	575.3	58.3
	Yes	3351	11	533.3	33.3	10	515.1	31.4



**Table 6. Average Scale Scores for Matched Cohort by Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) by Subject and Grade**

Subject	FRL	N-Count	2024			2023			
			Grade	Mean	SD	Grade	Mean	SD	
ELA	No	20631	04	446.7	31.1	03	419.7	25.9	
	Yes	16116	04	423.3	32.6	03	400.5	25.6	
	No	20710	05	471.6	37.6	04	446.7	31.3	
	Yes	15786	05	443.9	37.6	04	422.4	32.4	
	No	21001	06	499.2	40.0	05	469.1	37.2	
	Yes	15131	06	468.7	40.2	05	441.3	37.1	
	No	21003	07	528.3	45.3	06	496.9	40.5	
	Yes	14856	07	493.1	46.2	06	465.4	40.7	
	No	21884	08	546.0	44.8	07	523.8	46.3	
	Yes	14911	08	511.5	47.2	07	488.5	45.6	
	No	22248	09	562.6	52.3	08	544.6	46.2	
	Yes	14962	09	523.9	53.8	08	509.7	48.7	
	No	23258	10	589.3	58.4	09	553.3	51.7	
	Yes	14641	10	549.2	57.5	09	517.3	52.0	
	No	23296	11	606.6	56.1	10	586.3	57.4	
	Yes	13168	11	571.1	56.1	10	549.9	57.3	
	Math	No	20647	04	446.1	36.2	03	421.2	29.3
		Yes	16141	04	421.1	33.8	03	400.8	26.5
No		20723	05	466.7	40.5	04	446.4	36.2	
Yes		15801	05	439.8	36.1	04	420.6	33.1	
No		21017	06	493.6	46.3	05	466.7	40.3	
Yes		15163	06	459.7	40.7	05	439.4	36.1	
No		21032	07	516.7	52.6	06	491.7	45.9	
Yes		14916	07	479.7	44.1	06	458.0	39.8	
No		21914	08	548.8	58.0	07	515.0	52.3	
Yes		14986	08	508.3	50.1	07	478.5	43.9	
No		22284	09	560.7	65.2	08	545.8	57.2	
Yes		15017	09	516.9	53.3	08	506.8	49.3	
No		23299	10	581.0	59.5	09	558.1	64.8	
Yes		14739	10	543.0	48.5	09	516.0	53.4	
No		23364	11	611.9	67.8	10	583.0	59.9	
Yes		13254	11	569.3	55.9	10	546.4	49.3	

**Table 7. Average Scale Score for Matched Cohort for English Learners (EL) by Subject and Grade**

Subject	EL	N-Count	2024			2023		
			Grade	Mean	SD	Grade	Mean	SD
ELA	No	34312	04	439.0	32.9	03	413.4	26.9
	Yes	2435	04	400.7	24.4	03	381.5	16.6
	No	34342	05	462.4	39.1	04	438.7	33.0
	Yes	2154	05	415.4	25.0	04	395.5	21.7
	No	34250	06	489.2	41.8	05	460.1	38.5
	Yes	1882	06	436.0	27.5	05	408.8	23.8
	No	34173	07	516.7	47.5	06	486.6	42.2
	Yes	1686	07	453.2	33.1	06	427.3	26.5
	No	35194	08	534.8	47.5	07	512.4	47.9
	Yes	1601	08	469.5	32.1	07	445.3	28.8
	No	35609	09	550.3	54.9	08	533.6	48.7
	Yes	1601	09	475.6	33.4	08	463.3	32.4
	No	36101	10	577.6	59.7	09	543.0	53.1
	Yes	1798	10	497.1	34.9	09	467.1	29.6
	No	34818	11	597.3	57.2	10	576.9	58.4
Math	Yes	1646	11	519.4	33.9	10	494.4	33.1
	No	34348	04	437.5	36.9	03	414.3	29.5
	Yes	2440	04	402.0	23.9	03	383.7	17.1
	No	34367	05	457.4	40.5	04	437.6	36.7
	Yes	2157	05	418.5	25.4	04	397.9	20.9
	No	34297	06	481.9	46.7	05	457.5	40.4
	Yes	1883	06	434.3	27.5	05	414.3	22.7
	No	34252	07	503.9	52.2	06	480.1	46.1
	Yes	1696	07	450.5	25.9	06	429.4	24.0
	No	35289	08	534.9	58.0	07	502.6	51.9
	Yes	1611	08	475.7	30.7	07	447.7	25.3
	No	35696	09	545.9	64.1	08	532.7	57.1
	Yes	1605	09	481.8	29.8	08	472.5	27.7
	No	36219	10	569.1	58.3	09	545.0	63.7
	Yes	1819	10	511.7	28.5	09	478.7	28.0
No	34950	11	599.5	66.7	10	572.5	58.6	
Yes	1668	11	532.7	30.2	10	511.8	27.4	

## Gain Scores

The ISASP tests are vertically aligned and scaled. This means that each successive test level builds upon the content and skills previously measured to ensure that tests taken over multiple grade levels show a coherent progression in learning. Each test is developed for a different grade level, student growth and progress can be monitored using the same scale. Table 8 provides the predicted growth between two grades.

Gain scores can be used to quantify the change in performance from one year to the next for either an individual student or for a group of students. Average gain scores for a class or school can be calculated by subtracting each student's prior scale score from their current-year score (i.e.,  $SS_{\text{Year}2} - SS_{\text{Year}1}$ ) and then taking the average over all students. The sign and magnitude of the gain scores are important in indicating the change in performance. The magnitude of the gain score indicates how much the group of students has changed, whereas the sign indicates if the gain is positive (signifying improvement) or negative (signifying decline).

**Table 8. Predicted Growth based on ISASP Vertical Scale**

<i>Grade</i>	<b>Mean Scale Score</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>Predicted Growth for One Year</b>
<i>03</i>	409	28.7	
<i>04</i>	432	34.4	23
<i>05</i>	454	41.3	22
<i>06</i>	476	45.5	22
<i>07</i>	500	50.0	24
<i>08</i>	521	55.0	21
<i>09</i>	544	60.5	23
<i>10</i>	568	60.5	24
<i>11</i>	593	60.5	25