

International Schools' Assessment

What is ISA?

The [International Schools' Assessment \(ISA\)](#) is an annual assessment programme that has been specially developed to measure skills in mathematical literacy, reading and writing of students in international schools. ISA is based on the internationally endorsed reading and mathematical literacy frameworks of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It is designed and developed in Australia by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). The ISA reports provide descriptive information about what students know and can do. The results are equated from year to year so they can be used to track changes over time at individual and school level.

What is ISA NOT?

ISA is not a competitive or comparative test. It is also not a test that students “pass”. It will not be used for purposes other than providing data to us, you, and your child, about his/her learning. While we give opportunities for practice, students do not ‘prepare’ for the tests, since they are consistent with what students learn on a regular basis.

Who uses ISA?

A growing number of international schools now use ISA, including many of the acknowledged world leaders in international education. Aichi International School students began taking the ISA in 2015.

How do the assessments work?

Students complete a reading literacy test, a mathematical literacy test and two writing tests (narrative and expository), each of which takes between 45 minutes and one hour to administer. The tests include both multiple-choice and open-ended tasks.

What information will I receive as a parent?

Each parent of a child who took the ISA tests receives an individual report giving you a detailed record of your child's performance in relation to scales that describe increasingly advanced skills in mathematical literacy, reading literacy and writing. This includes a level based on what your child has demonstrated that they were able to do in the ISA. Homeroom teacher's will refer to this data and provide parents with a copy of their child's performance at the May Parent Conferences.

How will AIS use these results?

By analyzing student performance on different sections of the various tests, AIS is able to identify areas in which we may be teaching well and also areas that we need to strengthen in our curriculum. In other words, we are looking at closing the gaps on the areas that need improvement and strengthening on areas that we are already doing well. Similarly we will look at where extra resources may be needed to help children develop their understanding with regards to certain aspects of the curriculum.