



2015-2016 Archdiocesan ITBS/iRM Testing Consortium Overview

Dear ITBS/iRM Consortium School Leaders,

This year, 22 ITBS member schools have continued to do an excellent job of working together to test during a common testing time, develop data teams to analyze student data, and to use various online tools through iRM (Interactive Results Manager) and the Office for Catholic Schools to assess student performance and track data trends. The Consortiums quick link has been a helpful resource to secure all relevant resources in one central location for your convenience. The OCS Tech Team continues to pre-populate various tools from the annual data collections to support self-study and accreditation, annual data reports including the Indices of Vitality reports.

We continue to look at the OCS Strategic Plan as our guiding document. Goal 2 provides direction for refining our academics, and Action 5: “Accountability through Assessment” requires us to assess our students’ academic achievement with a common summative test in grades Pre-K – 8 and Category 1 high schools. Our OCS work is to begin making an informed decision regarding which test to administer. Our Superintendent, Dr. Patrick Haggarty, has tasked a sub-committee of the Executive Principals to develop criteria and review assessment options. Kristin Dixon will be sending out an assessment survey later in May to secure input from all 63 elementary school leaders. The subcommittee will then meet to review the criteria and then on July 7th and 8th, listen to presentations by various assessment publishers. The committee will offer the results of their findings to the superintendent and the Executive Principals for a final decision in the winter of 2016. The OCS anticipates implementing the common summative test in the 2016-2017 school year. Therefore:

ACTION REQUIRED: Please use the verification form attached to communicate your local decision to remain in this ITBS/iRM Consortium or end your participation for the 15-16 school year. If your school plans to participate in the ITBS/iRM Consortium for the 2015 - 2016 school year, please continue reading this overview and follow the necessary steps for ordering materials and noting key dates. Thank you!

ARCHDIOCESAN ITBS/iRM TESTING CONSORTIUM - Fall 2015 Testing Program

Parameters:

*The Archdiocesan ITBS/iRM Consortium will continue to support the ITBS - 2005 norms, Form A or Form C, test through the 2015 -2016 school year. We are grateful to share a 15% discount on Riverside testing materials and 25% discount on all products purchased

through the Riverside Scoring Center. This 2015 pricing information will be posted on the ITBS forum.

***FALL Testing Window: Thursday, October 15 through Friday, October 30, 2015** - Our testing window continues to reflect the fall mid-point for the national norms' comparison. Background: The fall, mid-year, and spring norms are empirically established. By definition, the fall mid-point is set at October 22nd and the spring mid-point is set at April 30th. When students are administered the ITBS Tests at these points, their scores are reflective of the national averages from the students in the standardization sample. Local data should be available before Thanksgiving vacation. The Archdiocesan fall testing window follows the annual testing pattern of the last two weeks in October.

*The Office for Catholic Schools will continue working with Riverside Publishing to assist each consortium member school with using **bar codes** containing a unique student ID number to each student testing within the consortium. The OCS will work with the local school testing coordinator to develop the student rosters accurately to reflect this additional tracking information. This step ensures that our student data is collected in a more standardized and accurate way. ALL participating schools will receive directions in late May to create student lists for barcoding preparation.

***Consortium Testing: Grades 3 - 8**

***Costs:** Each school is responsible for their local building costs. The Office for Catholic Schools will be responsible for costs associated with bar coding costs to rolling-up test scores of participating schools at the Archdiocesan level. CogAT is optional testing choice. For additional information about CogAT, please visit directly with Valerie Kosinski, our Riverside Special Accounts Coordinator.

Next steps:

- 1) Please FAX your ITBS/iRM Testing renewal form to OCS by **Friday, May 29**.
- 2) Identify local testing coordinator for your building – name and email please. 3) Work with Valerie Kosinski at Riverside Publishing to coordinate any additional ITBS Testing and scoring materials by **Friday, May 29**.
- 4) **Riverside Pre-Test Workshop: Please hold Tuesday, September 15, 2015** from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the large Isaac Orr Conference Room at The Chancery. Valerie Kosinski and Tyler Brown from Riverside will walk through all directions and bring your school's testing materials to the meeting. ALL Testing Coordinators should plan on attending to receive your local school packet.
- 5) **Post-test Training in early December:** Dates are being secured at this time.

Optional Local Choices and Materials: Please visit the ITBS-IRM Consortium forum that is building with additional core documents from Riverside Publishing ie: 2015 pricing forms and 2015 Materials order forms. Riverside will honor the archdiocesan parameters and offer optional testing materials for your school's local needs. Ie: Some schools might

choose to test at a Grade 2 (Level 7) level or try CogAT6. These items may be ordered directly by communicating to Valerie Kosinski, Riverside Publishing.

Our National Riverside Special Accounts Coordinator is Valerie Kosinski, Consortium Assessment Coordinator. Contact information: Valerie.Kosinski@hmhpub.com phone at (800) 323-9540 ext. 7079, FAX (630) 467-7192 attention: Valerie or call Customer Service at 800.323.9540 and ask for Special Accounts.

Our regional Riverside Sales Representative is Tyler Brown. Please contact Tyler Brown for directly to set up local school professional development as needed. Contact information: Tyler Brown, Riverside Publishing, Assessment Consultant Executive, phone: 206-295-7842 or tyler.brown@hmhpub.com

For additional information or questions, please contact Sandra Smith at sandra.smith@seattlearch.org

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Barton Smith,
Assistant Superintendent
Tel. 206-382-4842 • Fax 206-264-2084 www.OCSww.org

Please FAX your ITBS/iRM Testing Consortium Decision to Sandy Barton Smith by
Friday, May 29, 2015 Thank you!
FAX: 206-264-2084 Office for Catholic Schools

Archdiocese of Seattle/HMH-Riverside Company
ITBS/iRM Testing Commitment 2015

_____ **NO thank you!** By signing below you are indicating that your school would like to end your participation in the Archdiocese of Seattle/Riverside Publishing ITBS/iRM Testing Consortium. Archival testing data will remain available to you and your data team located at <http://www.ocsw.org/apps/>

Name of School: _____

Name of Principal: _____

Phone: _____

Work Email: _____

Principal's Signature: _____ Thank you!

Archdiocese of Seattle/HMH-Riverside Company
ITBS/iRM Testing Commitment 2015

_____ **YES please!** By signing below you are indicating that your school would like to participate or renew in the 2015-2016 Archdiocese of Seattle/Riverside Publishing ITBS/iRM Testing Consortium honoring the fall testing window (October 15 – 30, 2015). It also indicates that you have read and that you understand the procedures and the financial obligations of this program.

Name of School: _____

Name of Principal: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Principal's Signature: _____

Name of Testing Coordinator: _____

Testing Coordinator's email: _____

Date Signed: _____ Thank you!