

As part of a law repealing the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) assessment, the Indiana General Assembly convened a 23-member panel of educators, legislators, business leaders and state policymakers to provide recommendations on what the next Indiana statewide assessment should look like. We wanted to gather teacher feedback on some of the main questions with which the panel has been grappling. In a poll of 130 Hoosier teachers, most¹:

- + Strongly support an assessment system with a shorter, summative assessment given once per school year
- + Say that their schools currently lack adequate technology for taking statewide assessments online, negatively impacting student instruction
- + Want to move the assessment to the end of the school year, and have it graded by Hoosier teachers

FINDING #1:

Teachers most strongly support an assessment system with a shorter, summative assessment given once per school year.

Administer the state assessment once a year for accountability purposes, with the choice of using paper and pencil or computer. Provide schools and districts with interim assessments that are aligned to state standards that will help teachers measure student growth, but will not be used for accountability purposes.

72%

support or strongly support

Administer parts of the state assessment at multiple times throughout the school year for accountability purposes, using only computers for computer adaptive testing.

21%

support or strongly support

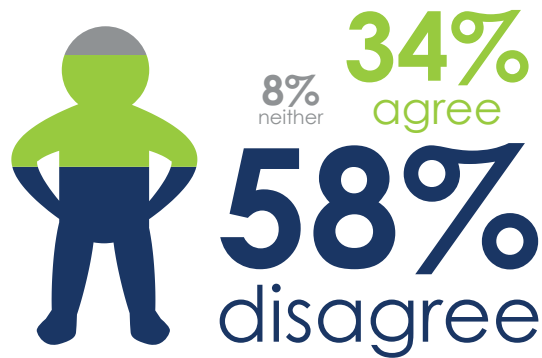
¹ In this sample of 130 public school teachers, 66.2 percent teach in traditional public schools and 33.8 teach in public charter schools; 31.5 percent have 5 or fewer years of full-time teaching experience, 26.2 percent have 6 to 10 years, 19.2 percent have 11 to 20 years, 14.6 percent have 21 to 30 years, and 8.5 percent have 31 or more years; 31.3 percent teach in schools with 1-24% free or reduced lunch (FRL), 12.5 percent teach in schools with 25-49% FRL, 27.3 percent teach in schools with 50-74% FRL, 46.1 percent teach in schools with 75-99% FRL, 8.6 percent teach in schools with 100% FRL, and 2.3 percent were unsure.

FINDING #2:

Surveyed teachers say that their schools currently lack adequate technology for taking statewide assessments online, negatively impacting student instruction.

QUESTION

Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with this statement: “My school has adequate technology for students to take ISTEP online, without negatively impacting student instruction.”

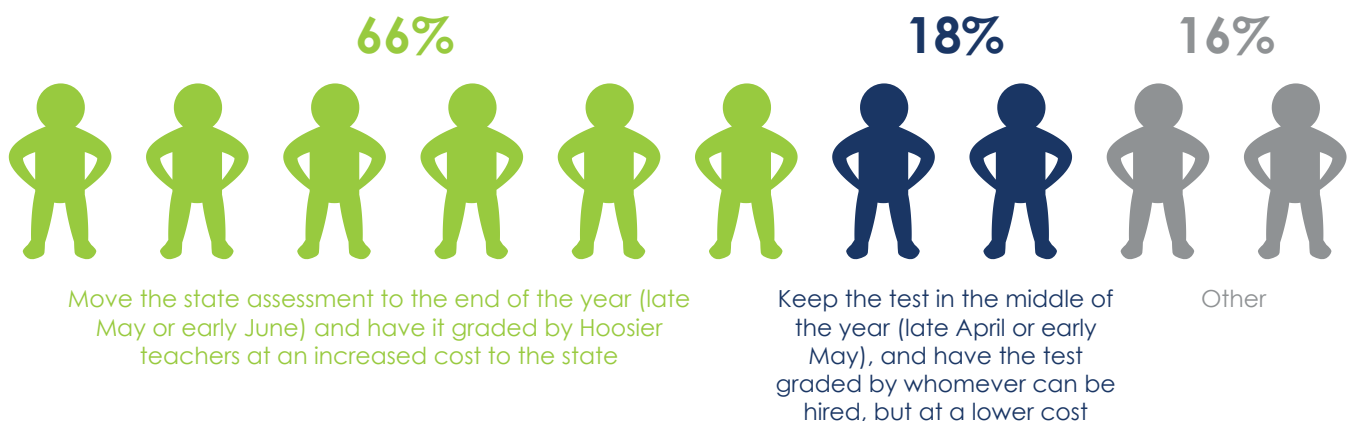


FINDING #3:

Teachers want the assessment given at the end of the school year, and they want it graded by Hoosier teachers.

QUESTION

If the assessment is given once per year, which system would you prefer?



Other Responses

“As a teacher, if the assessment were given once a year, I would like to see it at the end of the school year. It should be graded by professional individuals; not necessarily teachers.”

“Give local control over the best time for the exam to be administered.”

“Let each school determine their own needs, administer their own assessments, evaluated by their own educators who know these children.”