



AMIRA BENCHMARK GUIDE for IDAHO

OVERVIEW

This guide outlines what to do before, during, and after the Amira Benchmark assessment, used for the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) during the beginning and end of the school year. Follow the steps to prepare your classroom and students, support them during testing, and review and share results once the assessment is complete.

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Before the Assessment

Get Set Up	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Check Your Assessment Window</p> <p>Check your Growth Dashboard ISIP Assess Status widget for your district's May assessment window dates. Your district must administer the EOY IRI during the May screening window — contact your district test coordinator if you have questions about your specific dates.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Adjust Assessment Settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If any student needs an accommodation (such as Spanish proctoring, paper and pencil administration, braille, or nonverbal assessment), contact your district test coordinator well before the window opens so they can configure it in time. ● Note that extended time is not an allowable accommodation for K–3 students this year. ● The Spanish assessment is disabled for EOY. Only Spanish proctoring (directions delivered in Spanish) remains available. <p>Teacher Resource: Guidance for Assessment Accommodations</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Plan Your Assessment Schedule</p> <p><i>Best Practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use Amira flexibly (whole-group, small-group, individual) ● Consider assessing in small groups so you can more closely monitor students, cut down on background noise, and quickly address any tech issues. ● Display the schedule so students know when they'll test.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Preview the Student Experience</p> <p>See what the assessment looks like from a student's perspective.</p> <p>Student Experience Walkthrough: ISIP Assess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Example Video: 1st Grade Assessment ▶ Example Video: 5th Grade Assessment <p>Amira ISIP Assess Task Examples</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Communicate with Families</p> <p>Let families know that benchmark testing is coming up soon and that they'll receive an update afterward to see how their child is growing as a reader.</p> <p>Teacher Resource: Family Update Packet</p>

Prepare Your Classroom



Prepare Your Devices

Best Practices:

- Make sure all devices are fully charged.
- Restart devices to refresh performance.
- Close unused apps, tabs, and windows to free up memory and bandwidth.
- Check microphone permissions and ensure the correct mic is selected.
- If you are using headsets, test them to make sure they're working properly.
- Keep extra devices and headsets available in case replacements are needed during the assessment.

[Teacher Resource: Troubleshooting Tips](#)

[Teacher Resource: iPad Setup & Instructions](#)

[Teacher Resource: Chromebook Setup & Instructions](#)



Set Up Your Space

Best Practices:

- Space devices apart to prevent microphones from picking up multiple voices.
- Use testing dividers or headsets to reduce background noise (optional but helpful).

Prepare Your Students



Reintroduce Students to Amira

Best Practice:

- Review the Introducing Amira Video and slides.
- Watch the example videos of students taking the assessment.
- Prioritize the sections where your students are most likely to need additional support.

[Class Resource: Introducing Amira Slide Decks & Videos](#)

▶ [Example Video: 1st Grade Assessment](#)

▶ [Example Video: 5th Grade Assessment](#)



Review Testing Routines and Troubleshooting Steps

Best Practices:

- Revisit classroom routines for using, handling, and caring for devices.
- Display and discuss Amira's Tips for Success poster as a final reminder before testing.

[Class Resource: Amira's Tips for Success Poster](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Encourage Confidence</p> <p><i>Best Practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remind students to keep going and do their best, even if they make mistakes. ● Praise effort and progress over perfection. ● Use positive energy and encouragement to set the tone for success. ● Go over individual goals with students and encourage them to reach for success. <p>Class Resource: Amira Goal Setting Cards (p.2-3)</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Prepare Accommodations</p> <p>Review your class roster with your district test coordinator to confirm which students have accommodations in place. For any student receiving a paper and pencil or nonverbal accommodation, plan for 1:1 administration time in your testing schedule. Print all required materials ahead of testing day using the resources linked below (and State-provided padlet for paper-pencil tests).</p> <p>Teacher Resource: Guidance for Assessment Accommodations</p>

During the Assessment

Support Your Students	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Provide Encouragement</p> <p>Use gentle, nonverbal reminders (like a smile or thumbs up) to help students stay engaged.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Maintain a Focused Environment</p> <p><i>Best Practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimize movement and distractions. ● Circulate the room to ensure students are on task and technology is working, without interrupting reading.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>For Students with Accommodations</p> <p>Follow the step-by-step instructions explained in the document below.</p> <p>Teacher Resource: Guidance for Assessment Accommodations</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Be Mindful About Breaks</p> <p><i>Best Practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aim to have students complete the assessment in one ~20 minute session. ● If a student needs a break, have them finish the task they are working on so progress

	<p>saves. When a student logs back in, Amira resumes at the testlet they didn't complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the student log out rather than leaving the assessment idle. When they log back in, Amira will resume where they left off.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do Not Assign SODAs</p> <p>SODAs (Screener On-Demand Assessments) are separate from the IRI and do not affect IRI results. Do not assign SODAs during May, and do not use a SODA as part of a test reset.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Test Resets Require SDE Approval</p> <p>If a student's assessment needs to be reset, contact your district test coordinator — do not request resets through Amira support. All reset requests go through the Idaho State Department of Education. If a technical issue prevents a student from completing the assessment, contact support@amiralearning.com and request to chat with a person— they will investigate the issue and advise on next steps.</p>

Monitor Assessment

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Monitor Assessment Completion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track student progress to ensure all assessments are completed. Amira automatically alerts you if a student has an incomplete assessment or needs to reassess. • Use the ISIP Assess Status widget in your Growth Dashboard to view completion details and identify students who may need additional time or support. <p>How to: View Assessment Completion</p>
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Get Live Support if Needed

If you encounter an issue you can't resolve, click Amira in the bottom-left corner of your dashboard and ask to speak with a live support agent. **Mention you are from Idaho in your chat.**

After the Assessment

Review Results

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Get a Quick Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View results in the ISIP Assess Classification widget on your dashboard. • Results typically appear within a few minutes, or within 3 business days if flagged as Under Review. Scores may take 30–60 minutes to appear in Additional Istation
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	<p>Reports (ISWEB) reports after they show up on your Amira dashboard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to the student reading available in the Progress Report. Note that the re-scoring feature will be disabled during the EOY window. • Pre-Reader recordings are now available for you to listen to. If a student's Progress Report shows 'No ORF,' that student did not receive an oral reading fluency task and will not have a recording. • Check each student's ISIP score and percentile ranking in the Class Progress Report (change View Type to By Window and Assessment Type to Benchmark). <p>How to: View Assessment Results How to: Class Progress Report How to Listen to an Assessment: start with the Progress Report</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Dig Deeper Learn more about Amira Reports with the Amira Data Dive asynchronous training and with the Teacher Reports Reference Guide. Data Dive Training Teacher Reports Reference Guide</p>
<p>Communicate Results</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Check in with Students Reflect on their assessment experience, celebrate their progress, recognize their strengths, and set new goals. Class Resource: Amira Goal Setting Class Resource: Conference Logs Class Resource: BOY Hopes & Dreams Activity Class Resource: Progress Reflection Activity</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Communicate with Families Send home an update so that parents know how their child has progressed since the beginning of the year. Teacher Resource: Family Update Packet Family Resource: Parent Report One-Pager</p>