

## Important Dates to Remember for ISTEP+ and IRead-3



### ➤ ISTEP+ Part 1 – Online (Applied Skills)

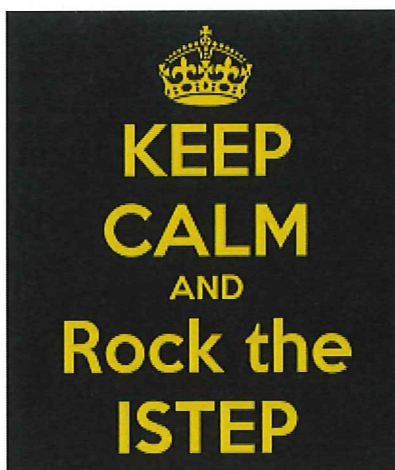
- Window Begins: February 27, 2017
- Window Closes: March 10, 2017
  - Grades 3 – 5 will test online

### ➤ IREAD-3 (Spring) – Paper/Pencil

- Window Begins: March 13, 2017
- Window Closes: March 17, 2017

### ➤ ISTEP+ Part 2 – Online (Multiple-Choice and Technology-Enhanced Items)

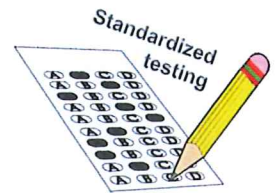
- Window Begins: April 17, 2017
- Window Closes: May 5, 2017
  - Grades 3 – 5 will test online



# Testing Tips for Students and Parents

## Testing Tips for Students:

- *Read* the question before you look at the answers.
- *Eliminate* answers you know are not correct.
- If you do not know the answer, *make a smart guess* and select an answer.
- *Mark* your answers carefully and *complete* open-ended responses.
- Make sure you work at a *pace* that will give you enough time to finish the test.
- If you have time left, *go back and check* your answers.



## Testing Tips for Parents/Guardians:

- *Praise* your child for the things he or she does well, and be supportive of his/her efforts, especially in the areas or activities that are challenging. Kids who feel good about themselves and their abilities – and who are not fearful about making mistakes – will feel more confident and less anxious when taking the test.
- *Talk* with your child about what he/she is doing in class and ask what he/she is reading and doing in math, science, and/or social studies. Studies show that kids who talk with their families on a weekly basis about school and what they are reading and learning score higher on standardized tests than kids who talk about these things less often with their families.
- *Encourage* your child to play outside if weather permits. The physical exercise helps relieve stress.
- *Limit* your child's TV, tablet, phone, and/or screen time. Studies also show that kids who watch fewer than three hours of television a day scored higher on standardized reading tests than those who watch more.
- *Encourage* your child to read – newspapers, magazines, food labels, recipes, letters, and instructions along with fiction and non-fiction books. Test makers draw on a wide variety of formats when choosing items to evaluate reading comprehension skills.
- *Ensure* that your child gets a good night's sleep. *Establish* an early bedtime routine – 8-10 hours of sleep is recommended.
- *Feed* your child a good dinner and nutritious breakfast with protein for the added thinking power and energy required to take the test.
- *Express* a positive attitude about the test and confidence in your child's ability to do well on it. Research shows that parents' and teachers' attitudes influence students' attitudes. So, if you are upbeat and encouraging about the test, your child is likely to feel good about it, too!
- *Reassure* your child that test scores are only one measure of his/her abilities, not the whole picture.
- *Remind* your child that no matter the outcome of the test, you will still love him/her.
- *Encourage* him/her to simply do his/her best!!!

