

The ISEE 3rd Edition: Better than Ever!

We are thrilled to have introduced the ISEE 3rd Edition this admission season. As requested by member schools, ERB has worked hard to develop a shorter test with the same level of confidence in results and information we have always provided. The ISEE 3rd Edition is as strong as ever, and we look forward to seeing the benefits of the upgrades we've made for our testing population and member schools.

With ISEE administrations well underway for the season, some schools, families, and tutors have asked about possible "differences" between this year's test and last year's test. Similar to other tests, like the SAT that offers different forms at each administration, the ISEE has multiple new forms in circulation. Below please find answers to questions we have received about the new ISEE:

How is the ISEE different from past years?

The ISEE 3rd Edition marks a series of advancements:

- ✓ Enhanced score reports
- ✓ Thousands of new items with 55% written by ERB member school teachers and administrators assuring grade level relevance of the test
- ✓ Creation of hundreds of new essay prompts
- ✓ Access to free online practice tests and immediate score reports for students- which provides equal opportunity for all applicants
- ✓ Response to requests from of our member schools to shorten the test (The Lower Level was shortened by 30 minutes, and by 5 minutes at the Middle and Upper Levels respectively) while maintaining validity and reliability

How is the ISEE the same as in past years?

- ✓ The same 5 test sections are administered: Verbal Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, Quantitative Reasoning, Mathematics Achievement, and an unscored essay
- ✓ The same quality test and continued use of the 3-year rolling norms
- ✓ Inclusion of ERB faculty members to guide development of the ISEE by selecting standards from International Reading Association (IRA), National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) when writing new ISEE items
- ✓ Review at all levels by multiple specialists, including bias reviewers and universal design specialists
- ✓ Secure and flexible testing for applicants to grades 5-12
- ✓ Accurate and clear reporting
- ✓ Responsive and personal service

How can I be assured that the ISEE 3rd Edition is comparable to the ISEE 2nd Edition?

To make the ISEE 3rd Edition comparable to the ISEE 2nd Edition, we field tested Edition 2 items with the Edition 3 items to make direct comparisons of difficulty using the same population of students.

As further confirmation, we have conducted an analysis of the ISEE 3rd Edition administrations through December 2009. This analysis shows that students' overall relative performance is comparable to students' overall relative performance in previous years.

Are the claims by some of a general decline in ISEE scores valid?

No. We monitor ISEE scores carefully each year, and so far we have not seen a general decline in ISEE scores. Through the analysis described above, we are confident the current test accurately reflects each student's performance on each section of the ISEE. Furthermore, every applicant taking the ISEE 3rd Edition has the same opportunity to perform well regardless of the testing year or test form.

As requested by member schools, we have shortened the test and provided an enhanced analysis section of the score report so that admission professionals can better understand a student's answering pattern and performance on the assessment relative to the number of questions in each section. The perception of 'lower scores' may be due to the number of questions available for each section, which is why we encourage admissions professionals to utilize the enhanced analysis sections of the score report.

What are the enhancements to the score report?

Based on member feedback we have enhanced the score report to include:

Consolidated student profile: The purpose of this enhancement is to make the applicant information clearer and easier to read for more efficiency in the applicant review process.

Break-outs for the Quantitative and Verbal Reasoning sections: These break-outs go hand-in-hand with the member request to shorten the test. The purpose of this enhancement is to show test item types and a student's ability within each item type. This will enable the admissions professional to understand how many out of the total number of questions the student answered and their answer pattern on the test. The results are listed in order of difficulty to help determine a student's knowledge and level of difficulty the student can handle with ease.

If I have additional questions or would like to discuss a student's score report, whom may I contact?

At any point you may request information or review of a score report. Please email Elizabeth Mangas, Executive Director, ISEE, emangas@erblearn.org and she or someone from the ISEE team will be happy to answer any questions you have.