

General Information

In spring 2026, the **online test in Mathematics** for the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) will be moving to an adaptive test design. This design consists of sets of questions, or **stages**, that vary in difficulty. All stages are composed of questions that are aligned by grade level to the new Iowa Academic Standards. Students are presented with a new stage based on their performance on the previous stage.

Adaptive testing allows for greater measurement precision of student performance, while remaining aligned to the Iowa Academic Standards in each grade.

Mathematics Stages

The Mathematics adaptive test for each grade includes **two (2) stages**. Stage 1 consists of questions covering all domains in the Iowa Academic Standards and is designed to accurately move students to the most appropriate set of questions for Stage 2. Stage 2 questions adapt the level of difficulty based on the student's performance in Stage 1 while maintaining alignment to grade-level standards, test specifications, and blueprints. The test specifications for the Mathematics adaptive test can be found at:

<https://ia.mypearsonsupport.com/resources/research/ISASP%202026%20Test%20Specifications%20Mathematics.pdf>.

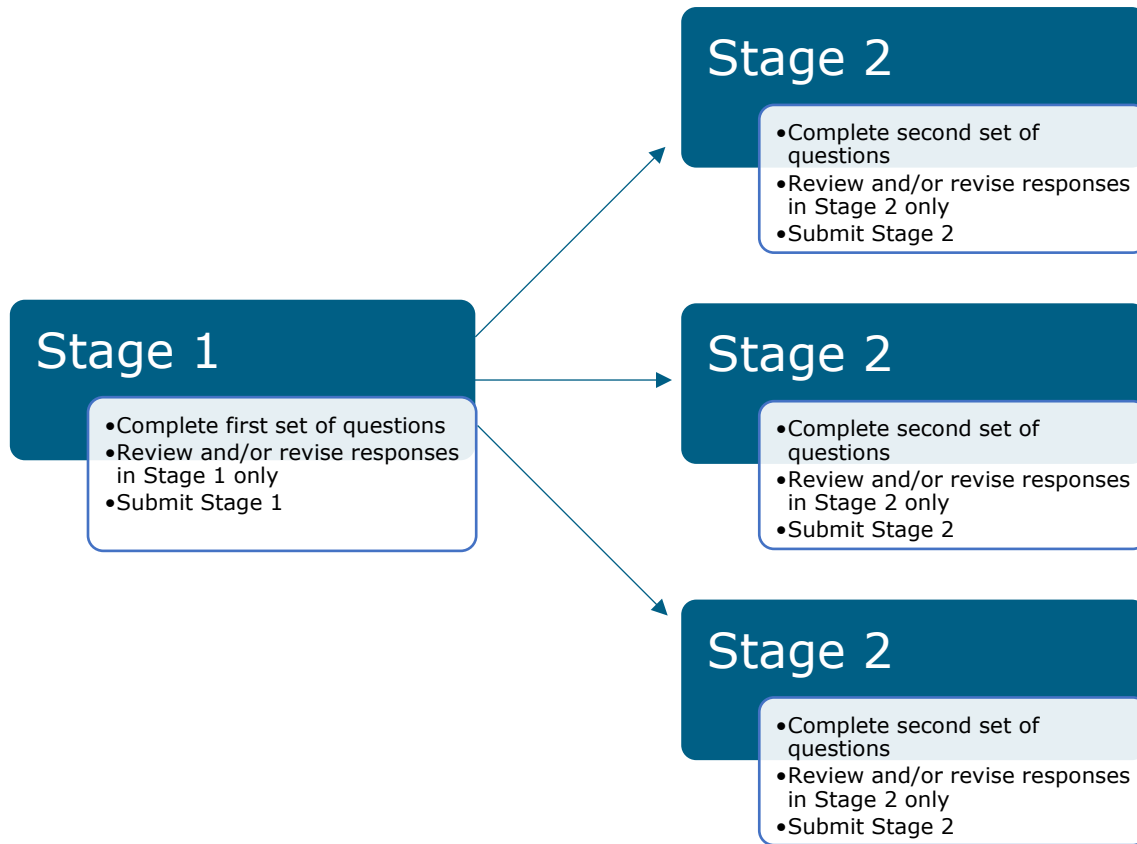
The ISASP Scale Scores will be unaffected by this new design, allowing for direct comparison of results in the Scale Score metric to results of previous administrations. The performance levels and thresholds (e.g., cut score ranges) for the adaptive tests in Mathematics will be determined by the **2026 Standard Setting process**.

Changes in Administration of the Adaptive Tests

There are **two (2) changes in test administration** to be aware of related to the Mathematics adaptive test:

1. **Students may not skip questions.** As in past years in the adaptive tests in Reading and Science, students can bookmark questions and return to them to review or change answers *prior to completing a stage*. However, students must answer each question when it is first presented to advance to the next question.
2. **Students will submit completed questions at the end of each stage.** To take advantage of the adaptive nature of the Mathematics test, students will submit their answered questions at the end of each stage. Students will be able to review bookmarked questions or change answers at the end of the stage but will not be able to return to these questions after the stage has been submitted.

Mathematics Stages



Updated Mathematics Practice Tests

The functionality of the ISASP practice tests in Mathematics has been updated to follow this change in test design and administration. New navigation landing pages will indicate the start and end of a stage. Directions have also been updated to identify the stages and alert students that each question must be answered to move on to the next question.

Students who take the grade-appropriate Mathematics practice tests prior to operational testing will be able to become familiar with the changes related to administration for adaptive testing.

Link to practice tests: <https://ia.mypearsonsupport.com/test-prep/>