

District 786

Islamic Studies Standardized Test

What is ISST?

- ▶ Islamic Studies Standardized Testing
- ▶ Offering Islamic Schools the opportunity to participate in a testing program unique to the Muslim community
- ▶ Currently No set Standards and Assessments for Islamic Curriculum
- ▶ Dist. 786 Making a Change
 - worked with Riverside Publishing Co. (creators of IOWA Testing)

Quick Facts about ISST

- ▶ Test is criterion-referenced
- ▶ Designed and developed by Islamic Educators
 - working in Islamic School System
- ▶ Test is national and encompasses nationally recognized curriculums of major Islamic Schools in North America
- ▶ Questions derived from Standards designed for each grade and subsequent content
 - Standards created from core curriculum of 3 prominent Islamic publishing companies

More Quick Facts on ISST

- ▶ **Testing questions evaluated by Dr. John Wick**
 - Northwestern University Professor
 - Published Extensively in areas of:
 - psychometric, measurements, statistics, and school improvement
 - Former Director of Research and Development
 - Chicago Public Schools and North Central Association
- ▶ **Dr. Wick assed that Test is:**
 - Well designed and highly effective in subjectively measuring individual student achievement relative to set learning standards

Tell Me More....

▶ Test assess four content areas:

a. Qur'anic Studies

c. Aquidah, Fiqh, & Akhlaq

b. Sirah & Hadith

d. Islamic Social Studies

▶ Has been piloted in six major schools

Islamic Foundation School	Universal School
Collage Preparatory School of America	MCC Full Time School
Furqaan Academy	Al-Aqsa School

How are Tests Scored?

- ▶ **Scoring is conducted by SME**– a partner of Riverside Publishing
- ▶ **Scores are reported in**
 - Percent Correct
 - National Averages
 - Percentile Ranking
- ▶ **Participating Schools will Receive**
 - Building Report
 - Class Summary
 - Individual Student Report
- ▶ **Test results are private and confidential**
 - Results will not be shared with other schools



Benefits of Standardized Testing

▶ National Benefits

- ✓ Unite Islamic Schools across North America
- ✓ Establish a more Challenging and Meaningful Standard for Islamic Curricula

▶ School Benefits

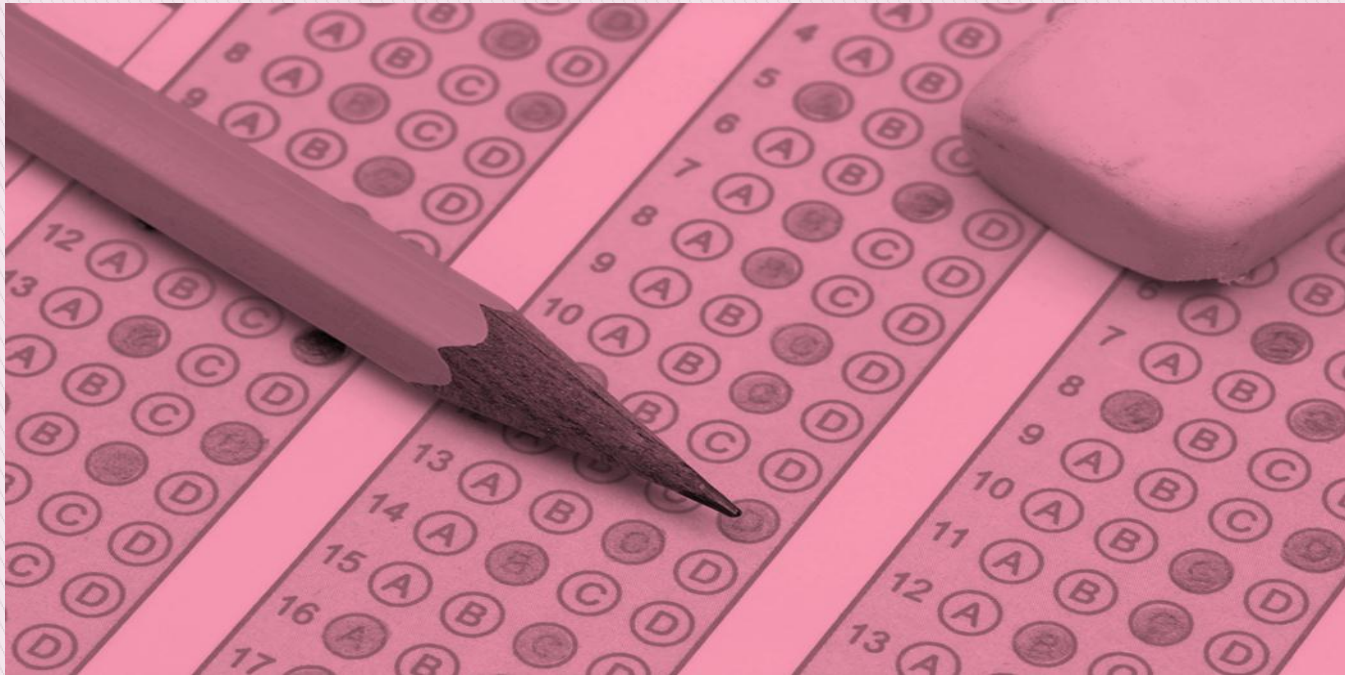
- ✓ Evaluate Curriculum Effectiveness
- ✓ Measure Student Achievement
- ✓ Track Student Progress
- ✓ Assess Instructional Methods and Best Practice
- ✓ Use Program as Marketing Tool for the School

▶ Student Benefits

- ✓ Recognize need for Student Enrichment
- ✓ Recognize need for Student Remediation

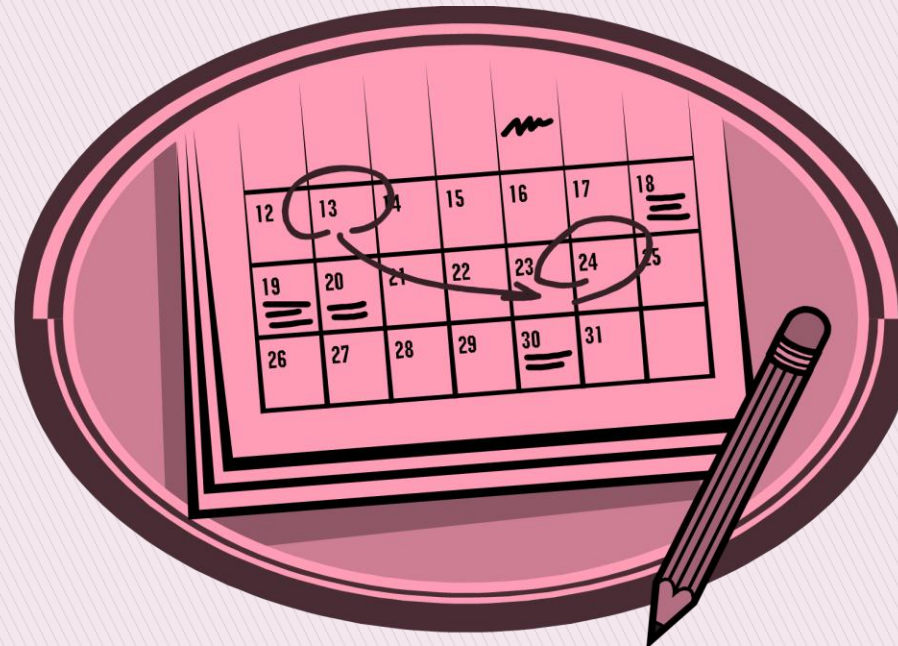
Who is eligible to take the test?

- ▶ Students from Grades 2 through Grade 8



Scheduling Testing

- ▶ Optimum testing time: Before May 1st



Using the data from the test

- ▶ Determine areas for remediation or enrichment
- ▶ Gain insights on program effectiveness



How Can Schools Participate

1. Contact District 786 for assistance
2. Add testing dates to school calendar
3. Order and pay for materials and scoring from SME
4. Train faculty for accurate test administration
5. Pack and mail answer documents to SME
6. Interpret, share, and apply data



Contact District 786

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How to Order: Test Materials and Scoring

- ▶ Complete SME order form
and fax to **217-355-0379**
- Or Mail to:
Strategic Measurement and Evaluation, Inc
ATTN: Islamic Studies Standardized Test Services
701 Devonshire Drive, Suite B-14
Champaign, Illinois 61820
- ▶ For assistance with your order, please call SME at
877-782-8269

Jazakallah Khayrun

