



i-Ready Diagnostic: Guidance on Assessment Duration

Overview

i-Ready Diagnostic is an adaptive assessment designed to provide teachers with actionable insight into student needs. The assessment is untimed, which means students are able to spend as long as they need on each question, and time spent taking the assessment does not impact their score. Even though untimed, the average duration of the *i-Ready Diagnostic* is **45 minutes per subject**.

Active proctoring during *i-Ready Diagnostic* administrations is essential to ensure educators receive high-quality data and students finish testing in a reasonable amount of time. Because the assessment is untimed, teachers should remind students who seem to be rushing to take their time and try their best and encourage students who look stuck to make their best guess and move on.

Curriculum Associates has conducted research into the time it takes for students to complete the *i-Ready Diagnostic*. The goal of this research is to provide educators with more detailed insight into the duration of the assessment so they can allocate appropriate time for testing. See recommendations by grade on the [next page](#).

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How much time should I allot for students to complete the *i-Ready Diagnostic*?

Research shows the time it typically takes for students to complete the *i-Ready Diagnostic* varies by grade level. As a result, we have organized the following duration guidance by grade-level band. While there is variation, these recommendations should allow the majority of students to comfortably complete the Diagnostic.

We recommend administering the Diagnostic three times per year with 12–18 weeks between administrations.

Administering the first Diagnostic of the school year:

- **For Grade K:** Start administration four to six weeks into the school year and complete within a two-week window.
- **For Grades 1–12:** Ideally, start administration as soon as possible and complete within the first two weeks of school. If not feasible to administer the beginning-of-year Diagnostic within the first two weeks of school, start the Diagnostic on the earliest available date and complete within a two-week window.

i-Ready Diagnostic Scheduling Information and Duration Guidance

Grade(s)	When to Schedule the First Diagnostic	How Long to Schedule for Each Diagnostic (per Subject)*	Estimated Total Active Testing Time**	
K	Four to six weeks into the school year	Three 20-minute sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An average student takes 25–35 minutes of active testing time to complete the Diagnostic for each subject. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast majority of students complete in fewer than 45 minutes.
1	Start as soon as possible.†	Two 20- to 30-minute sessions		
2–5	Start as soon as possible.†	Two 40- to 50-minute sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An average student takes 40–60 minutes of active testing time to complete the Diagnostic for each subject. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast majority of students complete in fewer than 80 minutes.
6–8	Start as soon as possible.†	Plan number and length of testing session based on your schedule.††	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An average student takes 60–75 minutes of active testing time to complete the Diagnostic for each subject. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast majority of students complete in fewer than 90 minutes.
9–12	Start as soon as possible.†	Plan number and length of testing session based on your schedule.††	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, high school students take approximately the same amount of time as middle school students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that students with lower proficiency tend to take somewhat less time than students with higher proficiency.

*We recommend 12–18 weeks between each Diagnostic administration, including Grade K. Scheduling recommendations are based on average active testing time to complete the Diagnostic for each subject, plus logging in, viewing tutorial videos, etc. Some students may take more or less time to complete the Diagnostic, depending on a variety of factors. We do not recommend students at any grade level try to complete the Diagnostic in one session.

**Active testing time statistics only refer to active time spent taking the assessment and do not include account login time, tutorial videos, or the time after a session has gone inactive (i.e., after 29 minutes of inactivity on a single question).

†Administer the Diagnostic as soon as possible for your district/school, based on priorities and needs of your community.

††Most students complete within 60–90 minutes (e.g., two 45-minute sessions). Some will need additional time.

How were the scheduling recommendations calculated?

The research behind our recommendations is based on data from the millions of students who completed the *i-Ready Diagnostic*. The following tables provide greater detail on the analyses that inform our duration guidance. Recommendations for Grades 9–12 are based on a combination of research on students in Grades 6–8 and additional analyses of data from students in Grades 9–12. The data on these tables was collected in 2017–2018 for Grades K–8 and 2018–2019 for Grades 9–12.

Table 1. Select Percentiles of Duration (in Minutes) by Grade and Subject

Grade	Reading			Mathematics		
	40th	50th	60th	40th	50th	60th
K	24	26	30	21	23	26
1	28	31	36	29	33	38
2	31	35	40	37	42	48
3	44	50	56	43	49	55
4	47	53	60	50	57	64
5	50	56	63	54	61	68
6	52	58	65	59	66	74
7	52	59	66	60	67	75
8	54	61	68	60	68	76
9	50	57	64	60	69	79
10	48	55	62	57	66	75
11	47	53	61	56	65	75
12	44	50	57	50	59	70

Table 1 shows the duration, in minutes, associated with the 40th, 50th, and 60th percentiles of duration by grade and subject.

For example, the Grade 2 student with the median duration took 42 minutes to complete the *i-Ready Diagnostic* for Mathematics.

In other words, 50 percent of Grade 2 students completed the *i-Ready Diagnostic* for Mathematics in 42 minutes or less.

Table 2. Defining the “Vast Majority” by Grade and Subject

Grade	Vast Majority Duration (in Minutes)	Students Completing within “Vast Majority” Duration	
		Reading	Mathematics
K	45	88%	90%
1	45	76%	70%
2	80	95%	90%
3	80	84%	76%
4	80	81%	76%
5	80	78%	72%
6	90	83%	75%
7	90	82%	75%
8	90	80%	73%
9	90	83%	69%
10	90	85%	72%
11	90	85%	72%
12	90	87%	75%

The results in **Table 2** support the claim that most students are expected to complete the *i-Ready Diagnostic* in the recommended time frame. It shows the percentage of students whose active testing time on the *i-Ready Diagnostic* is less than or equal to what is noted as the “vast majority duration” separately by grade and subject.