



i-Ready Inform: Modeled Reliability Estimates for the Shortened Assessment Experience

i-Ready Assessment Brief | September 2025

Overview

Reliability estimates provide a measure of the consistency and stability of test scores. High reliability ensures that a student's performance on a test accurately reflects their knowledge and skills rather than being influenced by random factors such as test format and testing conditions. Curriculum Associates has conducted research to understand the reliability of the new shortened assessment experience for *i-Ready Diagnostic*, which will be known as *i-Ready Inform* starting with the 2026–2027 school year. This document outlines the modeled score reliabilities across grades and subjects.

The Importance of Reliability

For the 2026–2027 school year, Curriculum Associates will be releasing a shortened assessment experience in both Math and Reading for *i-Ready Inform*. This assessment will maintain robust technical qualities and cover the same essential content as the current experience but will have fewer test items. The shortened assessment will provide the same powerful insights about student proficiency and growth, while also allowing nearly all students to see fewer items. As such, it is important to understand the impact that shortening an assessment has on many factors, and one of those key factors is reliability.

Reliability is especially important in settings where assessment results inform decisions about student placement, student progress, instructional effectiveness, and school accountability. Without reliable scores, inferences drawn from the test results can potentially lead to inaccurate conclusions about student proficiency and educational outcomes. Ultimately, reliability estimates play a foundational role in ensuring the utility of assessments.

Reliability Estimates for the Shortened Assessment

In practical terms, a high reliability indicates that the test provides consistently accurate scores across a wide range of student proficiencies, which is essential for valid score interpretation and decision-making.

Curriculum Associates conducted a study using thousands of student profiles for each grade to model reliabilities for the shortened assessment. On the current *i-Ready Diagnostic*, reliability coefficients for overall scores in Mathematics range from .95 to .99, and for Reading, they range from .95 to .98. For the new, shorter assessment, modeled reliabilities range from .93 to .97 in Mathematics and from .94

to .97 in Reading. All reliability coefficients indicate strong measurement precision across grades and subjects and all far exceed industry benchmarks for strong reliability. **Shortening the assessment does not meaningfully change the reliability of scores or the interpretation of student data.**

The modeled reliability for the shortened assessment is provided for Math and Reading in Table 1. The estimates of the reliability of the current version are provided as a point of reference.

Table 1: Reliability Estimates for Math and Reading

| Grade | Math Reliability (Current) | Math Reliability (Shortened)* | Reading Reliability (Current) | Reading Reliability (Shortened)* |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| K | 0.95 | 0.93 | 0.95 | 0.95 |
| 1 | 0.96 | 0.93 | 0.97 | 0.96 |
| 2 | 0.96 | 0.93 | 0.97 | 0.96 |
| 3 | 0.96 | 0.94 | 0.97 | 0.94 |
| 4 | 0.97 | 0.94 | 0.97 | 0.94 |
| 5 | 0.97 | 0.94 | 0.97 | 0.94 |
| 6 | 0.97 | 0.94 | 0.97 | 0.95 |
| 7 | 0.97 | 0.95 | 0.97 | 0.95 |
| 8 | 0.98 | 0.95 | 0.97 | 0.95 |
| 9 | 0.98 | 0.97 | 0.98 | 0.96 |
| 10 | 0.98 | 0.97 | 0.98 | 0.96 |
| 11 | 0.98 | 0.97 | 0.98 | 0.96 |
| 12 | 0.99 | 0.97 | 0.98 | 0.97 |

*Reliabilities for the new shortened assessment are modeled from existing student records. Reliability analyses will be conducted again after the first operational year of testing.

Conclusion

When changes are made to an assessment, it is critical to reevaluate the technical properties of the scores, including reliability. Curriculum Associates has thoughtfully and systematically implemented procedures to shorten *i-Ready Inform* and concluded that this shortening will not substantively impact the reliability estimates. States, districts, and schools can continue to use the assessment data confidently to make important decisions about student learning.