

BASIS Independent Schools accepts both the Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE) or the Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT) as part of the admissions process; however, we only administer and coordinate the **ISEE** on our campuses.

General FAQ

Q: Does BASIS Independent Schools prefer one exam over the other?

A: No. The ISEE and SSAT are equally acceptable. Admissions committees will consider scores from either assessment as just one component of our holistic admissions review.

Q: Can families submit scores from both exams?

A: No, for easier tracking, workload of admissions teams, and time constraints of the admissions committees during the review period, only one set of scores can be submitted.

Q: Why does BASIS Independent Schools host the ISEE on-site but not the SSAT?

A: The SSAT requires schools to administer the exam only on dates set by the SSAT, while the ISEE allows schools to choose their own testing dates. This flexibility allows us to align our testing dates with our application deadlines while avoiding conflicts with school and community events.

Q: What is the ISEE?

A: The ISEE is a standardized admissions assessment for students entering Grades 2 - 12 and is used by many independent and private schools to help evaluate applicants. The ISEE is offered on specific testing site selected dates, and scores can be sent to multiple participating schools.

Q: What does the ISEE assess?

A: The ISEE assesses a student's academic skills in five key areas:

- **Verbal Reasoning:** Measures vocabulary knowledge, ability to understand relationships between words, and verbal problem-solving skills.
- **Quantitative Reasoning:** Evaluates a student's ability to apply mathematical reasoning and solve problems using logic, patterns, and quantitative concepts.
- **Reading Comprehension:** Assesses the ability to understand, interpret, and analyze information from a variety of reading passages.
- **Mathematics Achievement:** Measures understanding and application of grade-level mathematical concepts and skills.
- **Essay (Writing Sample):** Students respond to a writing prompt. The essay is not scored by the ISEE, but it is shared with schools to provide additional insight into a student's writing ability, organization, and communication skills.

Exam Registration FAQ

Q: How can I register my child for an exam?

A: Families will create a parent account on the [ISEE website](#), log in, and register for their exam.

Q: Can my child take the ISEE at a different location and share the results of the exam with BASIS Independent Schools?

A: Yes, if more convenient, students can take the ISEE at another testing site and parents can share the results of their exam with us directly in their ISEE Parent Portal.

Q: How much does it cost to take the ISEE?

A: The cost to take the ISEE varies based on both the testing method and your student's grade level. Review full pricing details [here](#). BASIS Independent Schools has no control or influence over the pricing of the ISEE.

Q: Does BASIS Independent Schools offer ISEE fee waivers?

A: No.

Q: How often can my child take the ISEE?

A: ISEE allows your child to take the exam once per testing season, up to three times per school year. The seasons include Fall (August - November), Winter (December - March), and Spring/Summer (April - July).

Q: How can my child prepare for the ISEE?

A: ISEE offers free online practice materials and sample tests on their [website](#) to help students become familiar with the format, question types, and overall testing experience before exam day.

Exam Day FAQ

Q: What forms of identification should my child bring to the test site on exam day?

A: All students will be required to present their Verification Letter from ISEE to confirm the student's name and ISEE ID Number in addition to one of the approved forms of student identification below.

Applicants to Grades 2 - 8

- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- School Report Card
- Health Insurance Card

Applicants to Grades 9 - 12

- School ID
- Passport or Green Card
- State-Issued ID
- Driver's License or Learner's Permit
- Military Dependent ID
- Visa
- Global Entry Card
- National Identity Card
- Employment Authorization Card
- Tribal Card

Q: What materials should my child bring to the test site on exam day?

A: Students are allowed to bring a small snack and drink (not in a glass bottle) to have during their break(s).

They are required to bring four #2 or HB pencils, four erasers, and two black or blue ballpoint pens. Testing sites do not provide students with writing materials.

Q: Are there any items my child is not allowed to bring?

A: Items not allowed include books, rulers, calculators, scratch paper, electronic games, smartwatches, smart eyeglasses, and mobile devices. Non-compliance may lead to test invalidation without a refund.

Q: How long is the ISEE?

A: For Primary 2, 3, and 4 levels (applicants to Grades 2, 3, and 4, respectively), the total test times are 53, 54, and 60 minutes respectively with one short break.

For Lower Level applicants (Grades 5 and 6), the exam lasts 2 hours and 20 minutes with two breaks.

For Middle and Upper Level applicants (Grades 7 and 8, and Grades 9 to 12, respectively), the exam duration is 2 hours and 40 minutes, also with two breaks.

Post-Exam Day FAQ

Q: Will families have access to the results of the exam?

A: Yes, families will receive a scored report from ISEE. To view a sample of a score report and to learn more about how to understand the report, [click here](#).

Q: How is the writing sample of the ISEE scored?

A: Local Admission Teams score the writing sample. Teams will assess the student's ability to express their ideas clearly, their mastery of English grammar and spelling, their vocabulary/word choice, voice, sentence fluency, and usage of conventions.

Q: Will families have access to the results of the writing sample?

A: No.

Q: How many sets of scores can I submit to BASIS Independent Schools?

A: For Early Admissions, students can submit one set of scores from an exam taken between August 2026 and November 2026. For Regular Admissions, students can submit one set of scores from an exam taken between August 2026 and February 2027. No scores from before August 2026 will be accepted.

Additionally, BASIS Independent Schools will only accept and consider one set of admission test scores per applicant. If we receive more than one set of test scores, we will only review the test scores from the chronologically earliest test date.

Q: When and where can I access my child's ISEE scores?

A: Your child's ISEE scores will be available online at iseeonline.erblearn.org. You will receive an email notification when the Individual Student Report (score report) is posted to your account.

Q: How does BASIS Independent Schools receive my child's ISEE score report?

A: Parents will elect to share the score report with BASIS Independent Schools through their ISEE Parent Portal.

Q: Will BASIS Independent Schools accept a digital or printed version of my child's ISEE score report?

A: No, only documents sent directly through the ISEE Parent Portal will be accepted.