

# Discovering Talented 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Graders with I-Excel

BELIN-BLANK  
CENTER  
College of Education  
The University of Iowa



**I-Excel** is an online, above-level test for high-ability 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders.

**I-Excel**, developed by the Belin-Blank Center, offers the research-supported power of above-level testing in a convenient online format. **Testing occurs in the school.**

**I-Excel** assesses in four areas:

- **Science**
- **Mathematics**
- **Reading**
- **English**

**I-Excel** discovers exceptionally talented students. Educators can use results to develop their students' strengths through recommendations about appropriately challenging curriculum.

**I-Excel** licenses content developed by ACT that was designed to measure academic progress of junior high students. From that content, the Belin-Blank Center has been identifying the academic talents of bright 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade students for over 20 years.

## Who is eligible for I-Excel testing?

4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who have scored in the top 5% of their age group on at least one section of a nationally-standardized test such as the *Iowa Assessments* are eligible for I-Excel testing.

## How much does it cost?

\$45 per student. \$90 if testing fewer than 4 students. Financial aid is available.

## How are students registered for I-Excel testing?

**I-Excel**, an in-school assessment, is available throughout the school year. One educator is designated as the contact person for the school and oversees student registration for the testing session. Registration is completed online.

## How can I-Excel results be used?

The Belin-Blank Center provides an extensive interpretation of scores allowing educators to make data-driven decisions and differentiate for their students through curricular intervention and enrichment. One option for Iowa students is courses through the Iowa Online Advanced Placement Academy (IOAPA). Details at [belinblank.org/IOAPA](http://belinblank.org/IOAPA).

Educators receive both group and individual reports. Both reports include information useful for making educational placement decisions. Educators can easily share individual reports with the students' families.

## How is I-Excel different from other tests?

Most grade-level tests are not very challenging for gifted students and the scores aren't informative about readiness for advanced work.

**I-Excel**, a more challenging test, allows gifted students to showcase their strengths. Results help school personnel tailor educational opportunities to talented and exceptionally talented students. The I-Excel report helps educators in utilizing this information effectively.

I-Excel includes an emphasis on STEM subjects. Other above-level tests may include only verbal or quantitative sections.



## I-Excel advantages:

- Educators schedule testing sessions at a time and place convenient for them and their students.
- Educators and parents do not have to wait for a specific national test date or drive long distances to a centralized testing center.
- Schools may schedule multiple testing dates during the school year.
- Testing can be conducted on weekdays or on weekends.

## What are the requirements for computers using I-Excel?

Testing requires a desktop or laptop computer (no iPads, smartphones, or other small mobile devices). For best results, use a high-speed internet connection.

We strongly recommend using Chrome or Firefox as the browser, an external mouse instead of a laptop trackpad, and a wired connection (instead of wireless). It is not necessary to download software in order to use I-Excel.

### For more information

Visit [belinblank.org/inschooltesting](https://belinblank.org/inschooltesting)  
or email  
[assessment@belinblank.org](mailto:assessment@belinblank.org)

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