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Formula Used to Determine State Scholar Eligibility

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PLEASE NOTE: *The below information is intended to help families understand the process used to determine State Scholar eligibility. High school students (and their parents), who believe they may qualify as State Scholars, are strongly encouraged to work with their high school counselors to verify their individual data (e.g., test score, class rank, etc.).*

The formula used in the selection of State Scholars is as follows:

1. Test scores from student ACT and/or SAT exams are converted to an Illinois Standard Test Score (ISTS) as follows:
   - The SAT Reasoning Test: Evidence Based Reading & Writing Section Score + Math Section Score are added together and converted to the equivalent ACT Score. Refer to the official ACT-SAT Concordance Tables (Table A1: SAT Total to ACT Composite) to obtain the converted equivalent ACT Score.
   - The ACT Score becomes the ISTS.

2. High school class ranks* are converted to an Illinois Standard Rank Score (ISRS)
   - The percentile of the class rank for each student is determined:

     Percentile = Size of class MINUS (rank in class minus .5) divided by Class Size

     The table below is used to convert a percentile class rank to the ISRS.

Percentile	ISRS
99.75 - 99.99	30
99.54 - 99.74	29
99.19 - 99.53	28
98.62 - 99.18	27
97.73 - 98.61	26
96.42 - 97.72	25
94.53 - 96.41	24
91.93 - 94.52	23
88.50 - 91.92	22
84.14 - 88.49	21
78.82 - 84.13	20
72.58 - 78.81	19
65.55 - 72.57	18
57.94 - 65.54	17
50.00 - 57.93	16

3. An Illinois Weighted Selection Score (WSS) for each student is computed by adding the Illinois Standard Test Score to the Illinois Standard Rank Score.
   - Example:

     Illinois Standard Test Score (ISTS) = 23
     Illinois Standard Rank Score (ISRS) = 24

     23 + 24 = WSS of 47

     Students with an ISTS at or above the 95th percentile on a college exam, and who meet all other eligibility requirements, are automatically designated as State Scholars. Students with an ISTS below the 95th percentile but who have a WSS greater than or equal to the cutoff score are also designated as State Scholars. The WSS and the 95th percentile cutoffs on a college exam are established annually.

4. In any academic year, approximately 10% of all Illinois high school graduates are named State Scholars. A WSS cutoff is determined by ISAC each year to yield this result.

   For the 2026-27 academic year (when 2027-28 State Scholars are named): students with an ISTS of 31 or higher are automatically designated as State Scholars; students with an ISTS lower than 31 but have a WSS greater than or equal to the cutoff score of 48 are also designated as State Scholars.

* *If a student's high school ranks, those rankings are used in the State Scholar eligibility formula. If the high school does not rank, then the student's unweighted grade point average (GPA) is used in place of class rank when determining eligibility.*