# **Testing Details for Providence Admission**

## **PreK Applicants**

No testing is required.

## **Kindergarten Applicants**

Students applying for kindergarten are given the Missouri KIDS (Kindergarten Inventory of Developmental Skills.) This assessment tests students in Number Sense, Auditory Skills, Paper & Pencil Skills, Verbal Reasoning, Visual Skills, and Gross Motor Skills. This assessment takes 35-50 minutes and is administered in person by a member of the Admissions Office.

## 1st and 2nd Grade Applicants

Students applying to grades 1-2 are given an assessment developed by PCS teachers that includes reading, spelling, and mathematics. This assessment varies depending on the month that the assessment is scheduled. This assessment takes 35-50 minutes and is administered in person by a member of the Admissions Office.

### **ISEE Details**

Students applying to grades 3 – 12 must register to complete the ISEE exam as part of their admissions process. Families can choose from a variety of testing options that include paper or online testing at a number of different locations, including your own home. Families can register their applicant and find additional information on the ISEE at <a href="https://www.erblearn.org/families/isee-by-erb/">https://www.erblearn.org/families/isee-by-erb/</a>

## 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Applicants

Families will be asked to register their student for the assessment to be given while they are visiting campus for a shadow day. **This test will take approximately 60-75 minutes** and will be split into a Reading and Mathematics section. This assessment is online and will be completed on a laptop in the Admissions Office. If the family prefers, they can register for the At-Home version of this test.

## 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Applicants

The ISEE is broken into 5 separate sections. Applicants will be tested in Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, Mathematics Achievement and in writing through a 30 minute essay. The Lower Level Test (for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade applicants) takes approximately 2½ hours. The Middle and Upper Level Test (7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade applicants) takes approximately 3 hours to complete.

#### **Scoring**

The ISEE will be scored by comparing each applicant's scores to norms from students in the applicant's grade level who have taken the ISEE over the last 3 years. These comparisons are reported by giving a stanine analysis for each category tested. (See the below example.) Stanines 1-

3 indicate scores in the bottom third, stanines 4-6 are scores in the middle third, and stanines 7-9 are scores in the top third of all test taking applicants.

The Admissions Committee is generally looking for average to above average scores. Ideally, an applicant's stanines are 4s or above. If a student is scoring a 3 or below in any particular section that can indicate the subject is a potential area of weakness that will be a struggle for that student both initially and long-term at PCS. The Committee has accepted students in the past who have had a category that fell in the 3 range or below but it often comes with the requirement of the family providing some tutoring support in that area. We don't necessarily have hard cut offs at the stanine 4 but testing is one of the committee's considerations when trying to determine if a student can be academically successful at PCS.

It's important to note that students applying to independent schools generally perform at a higher achievement level on standardized tests than students in the overall student population. This means that your child's performance on a given section of the test may appear lower than what you are used to seeing on other standardized testing, like STAAR or MAP testing.

Section	Scaled Score Percentile Rank Stanine Rank			Stanine Analysis								
Section	(760-940)	(1-99)	(1-9)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Verbal Reasoning	921	98	9									VR
Reading Comprehension	908	76	6						RC			
Quantitative Reasoning	861	21	3			QR						
Mathematics Achievement	888	59	5					MA				

### **Preparing for the Test**

PCS *does not* recommend paying for the test preparation by Test Innovators that is available but there are free options on the ISEE website that can assist students in knowing what to expect on the exam, including a free sample test for each test level. You can access those free resources at <a href="https://www.erblearn.org/families/isee-preparation/">www.erblearn.org/families/isee-preparation/</a> We do recommend that your student do at least one practice section of the test to familiarize them with the format and content.

PCS will set up a few paper test dates in advance to assist you in the admissions process. You can also register to take the exam at any open test site. You do not need to set up an account to browse available test dates and sites at <a href="https://iseeonline.erblearn.org/Search">https://iseeonline.erblearn.org/Search</a> The Admissions office is also able to set up unique online test dates on available Thursday mornings upon request. All ISEE exams given by PCS will be online after the March dates below.

Please choose to have your scores sent directly to Providence Classical School. You can do this when you register or once the test scores have been posted but the school must receive the scores directly from ISEE and not as a forwarded email from the registering parent.