

Illinois Economics Challenge (ILEC) Testing 2019 Frequently Asked Questions

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Economics Challenge Online Testing Information:

1. **Q. What is the Illinois Economics Challenge (ILEC) Online level of competition?**
 - A. The ILEC online testing is an academic competition for Illinois AP level high school economics students, to demonstrate their knowledge of economics. Students may be enrolled in public, private, charter, or home schools or participating through a community organization, club, or an afterschool program.
2. **Q. What are the dates for the ILEC Online testing?**
 - A. The online testing will be available from March 1 through March 15, 2019.
3. **Q. Is there a cost or student limit to participate in the Illinois Economics Challenge?**
 - A. No, there are no participation fees and teachers may enter as many students and classes as they wish.
4. **Q. Do my students need to be enrolled in economics coursework during the 2018-2019 school year to be eligible for participation in the ILEC?**
 - A. No. Illinois high school students *currently or previously* enrolled in a qualifying econ course may participate in ILEC. Qualifying courses include: Advanced Placement (AP Micro, AP Macro, or AP Micro and Macro), International Baccalaureate (pre IB and IB), honors, two-semester, or any other advanced courses in economics (including courses taught by a secondary teacher where students can earn college credit).
5. **Q. Are there divisional competitions in the Illinois Economics Challenge competition?**
 - A. Not at this time. Illinois offers the Adam Smith Division only. Consumer Economics and one-semester econ students are directed to compete in the IL Personal Finance Challenge.
6. **Q. How many levels of competition are there in the ILEC competition?**
 - A. There are four levels of competition for the current academic year – the online statewide competition taking place in March, the on-site State Finals competition in early April, the National Semi-finals competition (held simultaneously at each state championship school) on April 17, and the National Finals competition held in New York City May 18-20.

Please visit the [ILEC Rules and Resources](#) webpage for specific details applicable to this year's spring competition.

7. **Q. How are tests scored?**
 - A. **1. Tests are scored the same for the online, state finals, and national levels of competition: Students earn +10 points for each correct answer, receive 0 points for each incorrect answer, and earn 0 points for unanswered questions.** The top three individual scores for a team are combined to form the team's overall score (the lowest individual score will be dropped). Individual student scores are only available for the online level of competition.
2. For the National Semi-finals & the National Finals competition levels: Specific information is available on the National Economics Challenge [Teacher Toolkit](#) page.
8. **Q. How can I ensure my students are prepared for the ILEC Online competition?**
 - A. Students who are *enrolled in or have previously taken* an approved economics course (see Question #4) during their high school career AND who are actively being coached in preparation for the competition will be best prepared to participate. Suggested resources for preparing can be found on the Tools and Resources document on the [ILEC Rules and Resources](#) page.

9. **Q. How do I begin the process of participating in the ILEC Online?**
 A. Go to [IL Econ Challenge](#) on the Econ IL website for specific step-by-step instructions on how to register and participate in the online competition.
10. **Q. Do I need to submit a Student Registration Form for each student taking the ILEC test?**
 A. **NO. Student forms are not needed unless the students advance to the State Finals competition in Chicago.**
11. **Q. Do I need to submit a Team Coach Registration Form?**
 A. Yes. After completing the brief online registration teachers must submit, via fax or email, a completed and signed Teacher Registration Form.
12. **Q. How do I access the online testing for my students to participate in the competition and how does the testing work?**
 A. Once the teacher form has been received, and the registration is finalized by Econ Illinois, you will then receive an email that directs you how to create your online student teams.
 Your student team(s) can test anytime within the online testing window. It is the Team Coach's responsibility to secure a testing facility (usually a school computer lab) and schedule a date(s) & time(s) for students to test. **There is no longer a team test limit of 3 hours. To simplify testing when students are absent, students can now test irrespective of teammates.**
 Students who are not eligible or approved cannot participate in the online competition, making them ineligible for the State Finals competition, should their team qualify.
13. **Q. Do all students take the same test for the online competition?**
 A. No. All students take an Advanced Placement, 30-question, **4-option**, multiple-choice test. Questions for each test are pulled randomly from a test bank.
14. **Q. Can my student teams take the ILEC test collectively?**
 A. No. **Team members are prohibited from working collectively on any part of the test.** Team members must test on an individual basis in order to be eligible to participate in advanced competitions. Team members may test one after another on one computer or at the same time on separate computers – whatever your resources allow. Participating teachers are on their honor to ensure that the rules of the competition are followed.
15. **Q. Can I get the individual scores for each of my students that participated in the ILEC Online competition?**
 A. Yes! Individual scoring is available through the test portal once your students have tested.
16. **Q. How many student teams advance to the ILEC State Finals competition?**
 A. The ten top-scoring teams are invited to advance to the on-site state competition in Chicago.

Illinois Economics Challenge (State Finals) Information:

17. **Q. When is the Illinois Economics Challenge State Finals competition?**
 The 2019 IL Economics Challenge State Finals will take place on April 9 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Please visit [IL Econ Challenge](#) on the Econ IL website for specific details.
18. **Q. Is there a cost to participate in the ILEC State Finals and do you offer travel stipends?**
 A. There are no participation fees for the state level competition. Yes. Partial travel stipends are available upon a principal's request for eligible teams traveling in excess of 150 miles or for teams whose participation is dependent upon financial support.
21. **Q. What are the rules for the ILEC State Finals competition?**
 A. Rules and participation details for the ILEC State Finals are available online. Participants must become familiar with the information prior to participation at the event.

- 22. Q. Can I reconstitute my student team(s) from the ILEC Online testing round prior to the on-site state competition?**
- A. Yes. However, Illinois requires that no less than two original members remain on the reconstituted team. Replacement students must have been approved and have tested online.
- Only 4 students per team will be allowed entry to the on-site state competition. A team can continue and compete with 3 students at the on-site state finals, if it is necessary. *Alternates will not be allowed entry to the on-site state finals competition.*
- 23. Q. What is the deadline to reconstitute any student team member(s) for the ILEC State Finals competition?**
- A. Teachers will be notified of teams that qualify for the state competition soon after the online testing window closes. Teams wishing to reconstitute must do prior to March 22.
- 24. Q. What if my school (or district) requires that I bring an additional chaperone (or driver) for the onsite competition?**
- A. If a chaperone or driver is required for your school to participate in the state event, you must submit a signed letter on school (or district) letterhead from your Principal (or Superintendent) stating the school policy about chaperones (or drivers) as it relates to the ILEC State Finals competition. Such requests will be addressed on an individual basis.
- Due to limited seating, only the registered Teacher Coach and up to four eligible students per team can be **guaranteed** entry into the state finals event.*
- 25. Q. Will I have to provide meals for my students the day of the ILEC State Finals event?**
- A. Possibly. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided to all attendees. Please use your discretion if students need to eat more the morning of the event. We are including a map of fast food available for breakfast near the bank.
- 26. Q. What are the awards for the winning team at the ILEC State Finals competition?**
- A. Each member of the winning team and their teacher will receive prizes valued at \$150 and a medal. Second place students and their teacher will each receive prizes valued at \$75 and a medal. The First and Second Place schools will each receive a trophy. Each participating school in the state finals receives a framed and matted certificate noting their participation in the ILEC State Finals competition. Every participant in the state finals will receive a certificate of participation.
- 27. Q. What is involved at the advance levels of the National Economics Challenge competition?**
- A. Information about the national levels of competition can be found by visiting the National Economics Challenge webpage.

National Economics Challenge Semi-finals Information:

- 28. Q. When and where will the National Economics Challenge Semi-finals competition be held?**
A. The National Economics Challenge Semi-finals will be held as a proctored testing competition at each State Championship team's school. All participating states will have their First Place winning team compete on April 25, 2017.
- 29. Q. Is there a cost to participate in the National Economics Challenge Semi-finals?**
A. No. There are no fees for teams to participate and a three-day all-expenses-paid trip is provided for teams that advance to the National Finals level of competition.
- 30. Q. What are the rules for the National Economics Challenge Semi-finals competition?**
A. Rules are shared on the [National Economics Challenge website](#) for both the National Semi-finals and National Finals.
- 31. Q. How does a team qualify to participate in the National Economics Challenge Semi-finals competition?**
A. The First Place team winning the IL Economics Challenge State Championship will qualify to advance to the Semi-finals competition.
- 32. Q. Can I reconstitute my Illinois First Place student team from the state level of competition, prior to the onsite Semi-finals competition?**
A. Yes. However, Illinois requires that no less than two original members remain on the reconstituted team. This is acceptable as long as the reconstituted team member(s) participated in the current year's online AND state levels of competition and that the reconstitution occurs the week before the National Semi-finals competition.
- 33. Q. What is the deadline to reconstitute any student team member(s) for the First Place state team advancing to the National Semi-finals competition?**
A. Teams wishing to reconstitute (up to the maximum number allowable) must do so and submit confirmation of the members attending the National Semi-finals competition *no later than the day following the State Finals event*.
- 34. Q. Can a team compete in the National Economics Challenge Semi-finals competition with fewer than 4 students per team?**
A. Yes. A team can continue and compete with 3 students for the proctored onsite Semi-finals, if it is necessary. However, this may place the team at a disadvantage as all team member test scores will then be included in the final total for team points.
- 35. Q. What information is available for the National Economics Challenge finals competition?**
A. All information is posted on the [National Economics Challenge webpages](#).