National Extended Time/Timing Code 6 Frequently Asked Questions

National Extended Time/Timing Code 6 Policy

- ACT is excited to share that we will be implementing a change to our administration policies beginning in September, 2018 for those taking the ACT with Timing Code 6, also known as National Extended Time or 50% extended time.

- Examinees will be provided 50% extended time for **each section** of the ACT. There will be a hard stop after each section.

- Examinees will no longer have to self-pace through the four multiple choice sections over the allotted 5 hours.

- The examinee will have:

  - 70 minutes to complete Test 1, English

  - 90 minutes to complete Test 2, Mathematics

  - 55 minutes to complete Test 3, Reading

  - 55 minutes to complete Test 4, Science

- If the examinee is taking the Writing test, he/she will continue to have 60 minutes to respond to the prompt.

- ACT is making this change to address issues raised in feedback from students and test administrators, to improve fairness for all examinees, and to make ACT's administration procedures more consistent with industry standards. The change is the result of thorough and careful study and consideration.

- Please note the June and July, 2018 administrations of the ACT will be administered under the current policy, i.e. students will be allotted 5 hours to self-pace through the multiple choice sections of the test, then there will be a hard stop and students who registered to test with writing will have one hour to respond to the prompt.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why is ACT making this change?**

  - ACT is making this change to address issues raised in feedback from students and test administrators, to improve fairness for all examinees, and to make ACT's administration procedures more consistent with industry standards. The change is the result of thorough and careful study and consideration.

  - Self-pacing was intended to provide flexibility to students with disabilities, but feedback from examinees suggests that it can have the reverse effect: Having to pace themselves requires an additional demand of them beyond what is required of examinees testing with standard time or other types of extended time. Self-pacing may also differentially impact

students with specific learning disabilities who require structure and pacing to achieve maximum performance.

- o Feedback from test administrators suggests administering the test to a group of examinees testing under the self-paced model can create difficulties, such as monitoring the amount of time each examinee spends on each section and individually calculating when to give announcements regarding time remaining.

- **What impact do we think it will have on examinees and their scores?**

  - o We believe this new offering will provide an improved testing experience for both examinees and test administrators.

  - o We believe this change will increase fairness for all examinees by better enabling some students to demonstrate their academic achievement without negatively impacting others.

- **What if a student cannot access the ACT test via this new timing policy?**

  - o ACT reviews accommodations requests individually and approves requests based on students' unique needs and what support the student uses at school to access classroom tests. ACT provides a variety of accommodations of which timing code 6/National extended time is only one. Please contact ACT at 319.337.1332 to discuss available options.

- **If all examinees in the room are finished with the test before the full allotted extended time expires can they move on to the next test?**

  - o Yes, if all examinees in the room are finished, then the group of examinees can move to the next test. All examinees in the room must be working on the same test at the same time.

- **How will breaks be handled for students testing with timing code 6?**

  - o Under the new policy, students will take a planned 15 minute break after test 2 and a 5 minute break after test 4 as a group rather than taking individual breaks through the test.

- **Is it consistent with extended time on other high-stakes tests?**

  - o Yes, other high-stakes tests provide extended time with a hard stop for each subject area.

- **How will students with disabilities testing international, including in Canada, take the ACT with extended time?**

  - o Starting in September, 2018, ACT will begin offering a computer-based version of the ACT test internationally, including in Canada.

  - o All examinees will be able to access accessibility features via the computer-based version of the ACT test, including answer eliminator, answer masking, browser zoom, keyboard navigation, line reader, magnifier, and highlighter. In addition, eligible students may take the computer-based ACT test with timing code 6 or 50% extended time in one session.

  - o Eligible students who require any amount of extended time, including 50% extended time in one session, or other accommodations not available via computer-based testing, may take the ACT via paper and pencil.

- **How and when are we communicating this to students and other stakeholders?**
    - We will be communicating the test administration details in our ACT administration manuals.
    - Other helpful resource documents for parents and students will be coming soon.
    - Students who previously tested with timing code 6/National Extended time will receive a direct communication from ACT soon.