What's New with ACT District Testing?

ACT continually makes enhancements to systems, services, and products to better serve our customers. The following changes have been made since the last test cycle.

Manage Participation

Managing participation is required for spring 2018. Information and resources for managing participation can be found in the Configuration stage of your district's testing website.

Address Change Request Web Form

PearsonAccess^{next}™ does not have a function for changing physical addresses. However, you can now submit address change requests via an ACT online form. Please use this form to let us know about address changes.

English Learner Supports

In fall 2017, ACT introduced supports on the ACT® test for US students who are English learners (EL). Qualifying EL students will earn college-reportable ACT scores. The supports are designed to help EL students accurately demonstrate what they have learned in school.

Students may qualify for the following EL supports:

- Additional time on the test (not to exceed time-and-a-half)
- Use of an approved word-to-word bilingual dictionary (containing no word definitions)
- Use of written translated test directions available in 12 languages
- Testing in a non-distracting environment and small group (i.e., in a separate room)

Extended Time Policy Change

In fall 2017, ACT announced an important change to the extended time testing policy for examinees testing under Timing Code 6 (time-and-a-half). All examinees testing with the Timing Code 6 accommodation have 5 hours, self-paced, to complete the four multiple-choice tests (English, mathematics, reading, and science). A hard stop is announced at 5 hours for any examinees still working on the multiple-choice tests. Examinees taking the ACT with writing then get 1 hour to complete their writing test.

This change ensures a fair and standardized testing experience for all examinees. It is important that we make sure examinees testing with the Timing Code 6 accommodation receive the same amount of time to complete the four multiple-choice tests, regardless of test option.

Return Process for Test Materials

The process for returning test materials to ACT has been simplified for spring 2018. Polymailers will no longer be used. A general processing envelope will be used for all answer documents and test administration items.

The return materials are also color-coded by administration type (standard time, accommodations, online, etc.). The table below shows the colors:

Administration Type	Materials Color
ACT Standard Time, paper	**Red**
ACT Accommodations/Supports, paper	**Aqua**
ACT Online (standard time and accommodations)	**Olive**

Extended Break Option

The option to offer an extended break for lunch or snack between the multiple-choice tests and the writing test is available for spring 2018. This decision applies school-wide, to all testing rooms and administrations for that test date. Security of test materials must be maintained during this break and examinees must continually be monitored for prohibited behaviors (discussing test items, accessing cell phones or electronic devices, etc.). Suggestions and guidelines for implementing this break are included in your administration manual.

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