



THEIR JOURNEY MANY PATHS

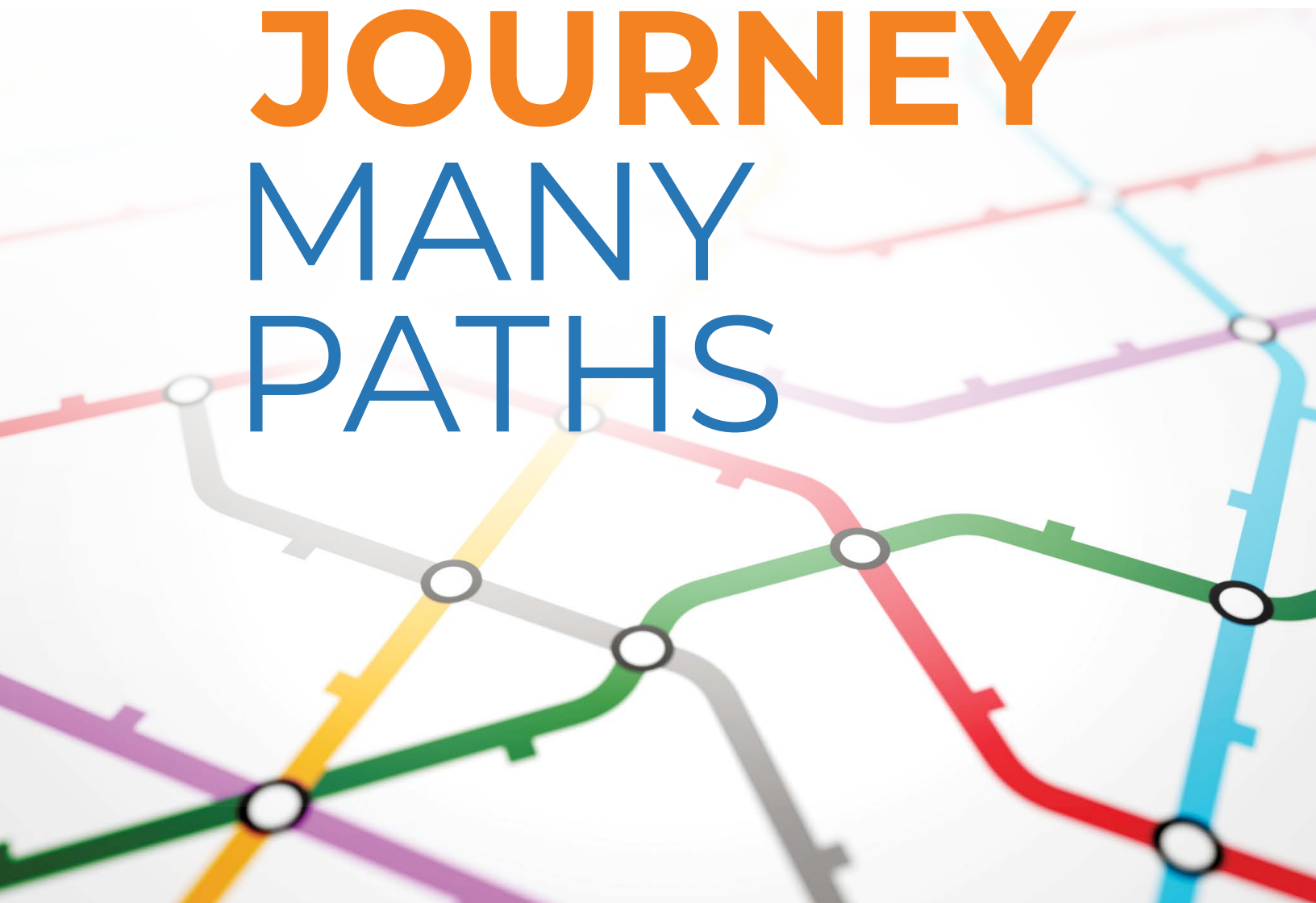




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Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for attending our professional learning events and engaging with the ACT team.

Getting students ready for postsecondary education and the workforce has always been critical, but the certainty of students' readiness is often difficult to measure. The key is supporting students along **their journey, through many pathways** as they successfully move from K-12 to their next phase in life. ACT events are designed to share solutions and demonstrate strategies to help you navigate the route for student success.

Beginning with our College and Career Readiness Workshop and continuing throughout the 2023–24 academic year, we will do the following:

- Share a blueprint that focuses on goals and practices along with an assessment and data driven, comprehensive and customizable solution set, inclusive of professional learning opportunities for schools and districts seeking to strengthen their college and career **infrastructure**.
- Highlight [ACT System of Assessments](#), our continuum of sequential assessments that prepares your students for a lifetime of success—in college and beyond.
- Demonstrate how these connected assessments, companion resources, and data support and inform teaching and learning.
- Share research, use cases, and best practices designed to monitor student progress, well-being, and career aspirations through ACT's holistic learning, measuring, and navigation systems.

I encourage you to be fully engaged throughout workshops, related events, and communication: Ask questions! Offer insights! Share experiences and best practices! Make suggestions! We're here to ensure you get the most from ACT solutions. We want you to understand any new features or enhancements. And we seek to strengthen our connection so we can learn from each other.

I hope you find all our events informative and energizing, form new relationships with colleagues and ACT representatives, and gain new perspectives on products. ACT is your partner and GPS as you address equitable learning paths, overcome learning gaps, and help students successfully move from K–12 to their next phase in life.

Enjoy time with ACT team members, discovering how we can help you to help all students on their journey, many paths.

Regards,

Blake Curwen, Vice President, Client Relations

NUMBERS TO NOTE

Readiness at Risk

The ACT national average Composite score for the graduating class of 2022 was 19.8, down from 20.3 for the graduating class of 2021, the lowest average score since 1991.

Thirty-two percent of ACT-tested graduates in the class of 2022 met at least three out of four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks, while 42% of students met none ACT College Readiness Benchmarks and 22% met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.

More than 18 Million Students Tested Between 2013 and 2022

[Read more.](#)

About ACT

ACT is a mission-driven, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people achieve education and workplace success. Grounded in over 60 years of research, we are a trusted leader in college and career readiness solutions.

Each year, ACT serves millions of students, job seekers, schools, government agencies and employers in the United States and around the world with

learning resources, assessments, research, and credentials designed to help them succeed from elementary school through career.

At ACT, our belief is, Their Journey, Many Paths and we are here to help guide students where their dreams lead. Beginning with Educational boundaries, the rest remains the same. Educational boundaries are changing, blurring the line

between learning and assessment. In a world in which learning is personalized by continuous measurement within learning systems, and a time when social and emotional understanding and

accountability are active forces, ACT holds an important role.

Together we can work to identify areas of need and align solutions to ensure your efforts during the school year and long into

the future are focused on growth and healing. ACT offers comprehensive solutions designed to meet the needs of the whole child, help educators and students address learning loss, accelerate learning, and enhance social emotional learning skills to ensure students are on a successful path towards college and career readiness.

Mission: *Helping people achieve education and workplace success*



UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

At ACT we believe in change readiness and building resilience for learning continuity and empowerment. We welcome changes as opportunities for improvements. These changes must involve those who will benefit the most from the improvements: our stakeholders. That includes you.

As you participate in the College and Career Readiness Workshop, you'll hear about some of our changes. In this guide, we'll specifically call out changes, some of which were already in process but were accelerated in response to your needs. These are changes made in collaboration with you—our valued partners.

Overview:

ACT Products and Services

While millions of individuals take the ACT® test each year, that's just one aspect of our work. ACT offers individuals a uniquely integrated set of solutions designed to enable learning to help students prepare for success in high school and beyond.

This chart shows the relationship of products and services in our integrated portfolio. Note that many of these products will be addressed in more detail in this workbook, product webinars, and at in-person College and Career Readiness Workshops.

	ACT Assessments	ACT Workforce	Mosaic™ by ACT® Social Emotional Learning
Products and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACT (including MyACT and Online Reporting) • ACT Test Prep • PreACT Secure®, PreACT®, and PreACT® 8/9 • ACT® Instructional Mastery (AIM) • ACT Professional Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT® WorkKeys® Assessments • ACT® WorkKeys® Curriculum • ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC®) • Job profiling • Digital badging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEL Curriculum and Assessments • SEL Screener • SEL Professional Development • SEL Educator Assessment (in pilot)
Suggested Student Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 8–12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 9–12 and postsecondary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades K–12
Format and Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper and online assessment and test prep series 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper and online assessment and curriculum system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blended delivery for curriculum and professional development • Assessment online only
Subject Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds and measures college and career readiness in English, math, reading, science, and writing individually and as a composite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds, profiles, and measures essential workplace skills applicable across various jobs and occupations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds and measures SEL skills
Resources Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides results and reporting to help guide college and career readiness and postsecondary planning as well as program evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers workforce readiness support and a nationally recognized credential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivers instruction, intervention, and mastery resources
Professional Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a certificate of course content mastery and learning opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes job fit assessment and job profiling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes professional learning opportunities

ACT[®] System of Assessments

Success doesn't happen in a year. It happens year after year. That's why ACT offers a continuum of sequential assessments that prepares your students for a lifetime of success—in college and beyond.

About the Solutions

See the chart below to learn the components and features of the system.

	Pre ACT [®] 8/9	Pre ACT [®]	Pre ACT [®] Secure [™]	The ACT [®]
	Set a baseline for students, provide early practice for the ACT test, and get predicted PreACT and ACT scores with just one test.	Provide a powerful simulated test experience for the ACT with a predicted ACT test score and data to prepare students for life after high school.	Provide students the opportunity to take a secure assessment in their own classrooms.	Assess students' college readiness with a college reportable score and data to inform teaching and learning in your classrooms.
Grades	8–9	10	10	11–12
Score Scale	Align to the ACT 1–36 scale	Align to the ACT 1–36 scale	Align to the ACT 1–36 scale	Align to the ACT 1–36 scale
ELA* Score	No	No		✓ (If the student takes the ACT Writing test)
STEM† Score	✓	✓		✓
Career Interest Inventory	✓	✓		✓

* English Language Arts (ELA) † Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)



ACT SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENTS

Throughout the workbook, product webinars, and workshop, more information will be provided regarding each connected assessment point along the path and associated benchmarks, scale-score ranges and meaning, and stakeholder benefits.

How the System Works

Connection is key to a system like this. How does it work?

Common scale. PreACT 8/9 test scores share a common scale with PreACT/PreACT Secure and ACT test scores. The common scale enhances score interpretations by making it easier to monitor progress over time. You can determine if students are on target for college and career readiness and predict student performance on the PreACT at grade 10 and the ACT at grade 11.

Interest Inventory. Each assessment includes the ACT Interest Inventory, which is based on research about career planning, to point students toward a range of good-fit options to consider. The ACT Interest Inventory results, when used in conjunction with test scores, provide a more holistic picture of the student's educational development and career-relevant motivations.

Their Journey. Many Paths.

Critical to helping students successfully reach their goals is creating pathways for college and career. To help educators support students along their journey, ACT has created guideposts around what it means to be ready for postsecondary programs like first-year college coursework, the military, and entry-level workplace training.

Workshop and Webinars

The College and Career Readiness Workshop kicks off the academic year with educator workshops and webinars as part of our navigational system goal: To guide student success using ACT products and services.

Progress Monitoring. Our aligned system supports progress monitoring through actionable data, standards, benchmarks, intervention measures, and companion resources.

During the workshops and webinars, take time to note data, recent research, expert insights, and best practices for progress monitoring using ACT resources.

As you travel along this course, remember that this is the student's learning journey. But you're the guide, helping the student to stay on track.

You are vital in their journey, many paths—partnering with ACT to design pathways to college and career.

MORE than a SCORE

Strategies for Using ACT Scores

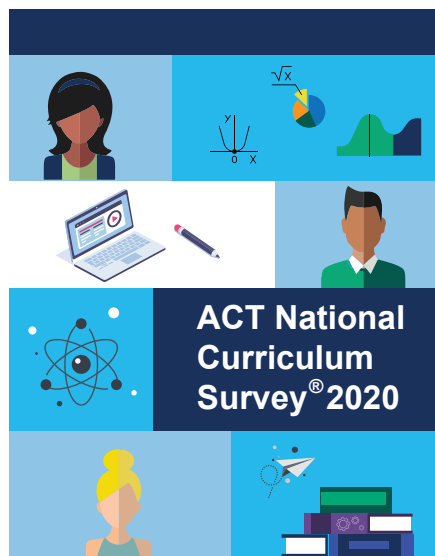
Students might assume ACT test results are only used for college admission purposes, but they mean so much more.

No matter their chosen paths after graduation, students having an ACT score will have a **predictor** of future achievements, **proof** of what they've accomplished to date, and **strategic tools** to help open doors toward success. Throughout this workbook and the workshops, we will highlight strategies for using ACT scores that K-12 professionals can implement today. They include Academic Advising, Promote Equity, Admissions Decisions, Scholarship and Loan Applications, and Accurate Course Placement.

Learn more about these and more strategies for using ACT scores on the K-12 Professionals resources page: act.org/k12resources.

Trusted Points of Reference

To help forge a path to student success, use ACT solutions to continually orient student progress toward the goals along their path, making course corrections as needed. You can do this using our trusted points of reference described here—all of which are based on ACT research.



ACT National Curriculum Survey®

Conducted every three to five years by ACT, the survey collects data about what entering college students should know and be able to do to be ready for college-level coursework in English, math, reading, and science. Results help to inform development of common academic standards and inform policymakers and educators. They also help to guide development of ACT assessments.

ACT College and Career Readiness Standards

The ACT standards are empirically derived descriptions of the essential skills and knowledge students need to be prepared for college and career. They are the focus of ACT assessments and can be used to:

- Communicate learning goals and expectations
- Relate test scores to the skills needed in high school and beyond
- Understand the increasing complexity of skills needed across score ranges in English, mathematics, reading, science, and writing.

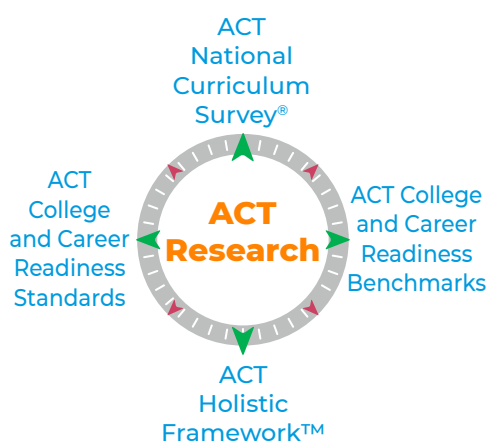
ACT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks

These benchmarks are the minimum scores required on each subject test of the ACT test for students to have a high probability of success in credit-bearing, entry-level college courses. PreACT College Readiness Indicators can also be used to evaluate student readiness.

ACT Holistic Framework™

The ACT holistic framework includes four key domains that emphasize a broad range of skills and encourage a more expansive vision of outcomes that help to define student success:

- Core academic skills that are mapped to learning progressions from K-Career
- Cross-cutting capabilities, such as critical thinking, collaborative problem solving, and information and technology skills
- Behavioral skills tied to success in education and the workforce
- Education and career navigation skills related to exploration, planning, and decision making



To learn more about the
Holistic Framework, visit
act.org/holisticframework.

Measure to Monitor Progress

Use benchmarks to measure progress.

To guide students in reaching their goals, you need to look at where they want to be and where they are now.

Determining where a student is on the learning journey requires assessment. You need to establish a baseline for the student and compare it to benchmarks. And you need to help students understand how to use assessment results to guide their learning.

A hub for assessment. Determining where a student is on their learning journey requires a reliable means to collect data. ACT has long been a trusted hub for assessment research and practice. You know that by using our assessments, you can support students at key decision points in their academic preparation and planning.



MORE than a SCORE

STRATEGY #1: ACADEMIC ADVISING

Build confidence and gather intel in record time to inform secondary instruction and advisory conversations.

Using ACT scores can help overwhelmed counselors serve more students with personalized insights. Students can take the ACT system of assessments as early as grade 8 (with PreACT® 8/9) to predict future achievement and grow confidence. In grades 10–12, you can offer them more test practice or start building an ACT® Superscore — averaging their best scores from each subject from multiple test attempts.

Learn more about these and more strategies for using ACT scores on the K-12 Professionals resources page: act.org/k12resources.



The ACT® Test

The ACT test is taken most often in the United States by juniors and seniors. It contains multiple-choice assessments in four areas: English, math, reading, and science. The ACT writing test is optional and doesn't affect a student's composite score.

Students who take the ACT test receive personalized college and career decision-making information to assist in establishing college performance baselines.

The ACT test is offered nationally and at the state and district level (including district and/or individual schools).

National Testing

Time: Seven times a year (typically on Saturdays) in February, April, June, July, September, October, and December

Place: Administered in test centers across the United States

Format options: On paper only at this time, although plans are underway for national online testing.

Test types: The ACT test or the ACT test with writing

Pricing (2023–2024): \$66 per student for ACT; \$91 per student for ACT with writing

State and District Testing

Time: Multiple Fall and Spring test date options, selected from those shown on the schedule on the State and District Testing website

Place: Administered to students in their own classrooms on a weekday, providing more local students the opportunity to take the test during the school week

Format options: On paper or online, per school or district decision

Test types: The ACT test or the ACT test with writing, selected by the district for all testing in the district, or by the schools with those holding contracts at that level

Pricing (2023–2024)*: Paper – \$53.00 per student for ACT; \$67.75 per student for ACT with writing; Online – \$51.75 per student for ACT; \$66.50 per student for ACT with writing, with additional discounts available for districts with 50–100 percent of students in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program (FRLP)

*Check with your state ACT account executive for your discounted state rate.

ACT District Testing
Free and Reduced-Price
Lunch Program (FRLP)
Discount Pricing

TIER 3
75-100%

TIER 2
50-74%

TIER 1
0-49%

ONLINE	
\$47.75	\$63.50 WITH WRITING
PAPER AND PENCIL	
\$49.00	\$64.75 WITH WRITING

ONLINE	
\$49.75	\$65.50 WITH WRITING
PAPER AND PENCIL	
\$51.00	\$66.75 WITH WRITING

ONLINE	
\$51.75	\$66.50 WITH WRITING
PAPER AND PENCIL	
\$53.00	\$67.75 WITH WRITING

Prices are for the ACT® test and the ACT test with writing. Tiers are based on student enrollment in Free and Reduced Lunch Program (0-49%, 50-74%, 75-100%)

Benefits of ACT Weekday Testing in School

Since 2007, students have earned college-reportable scores taking the ACT in their own classrooms.

For students. Benefits of this approach for students include the following:

- Reduces stress levels by providing a familiar testing environment
- Eliminates logistics for traveling to a test site
- Provides an opportunity to demonstrate what they've learned
- Contributes to future college and career decisions based on their strengths, weaknesses, and interests
- Helps to apply for financial aid and scholarships
- Contributes to discussion of college admissions and scholarship opportunities

For educators. Benefits to educators of in-school testing include the following:

- Provides information on academic achievement and college readiness for all students
- Generates online data to make decisions based on test results
- Serves as an evidence-based achievement test that can help meet local, state, and federal accountability requirements.

ANN C TAYLOR (ACT ID: 201293212)
(431-020)
TEST DATE: APRIL 2022

MORE than a SCORE

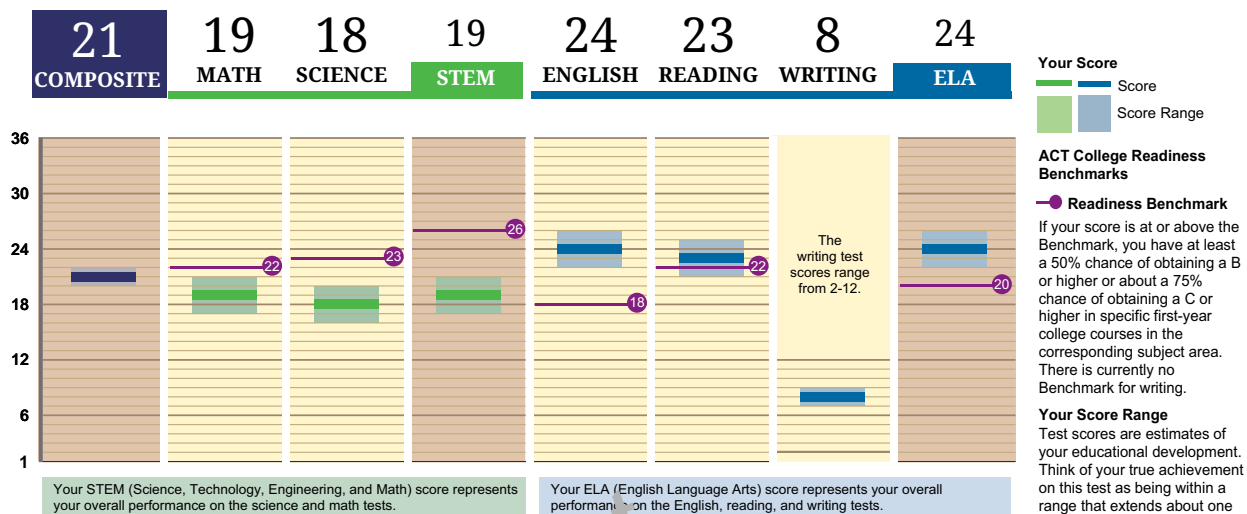
STRATEGY #2: PROMOTE EQUITY

Apply to college for free. Having an ACT score can close opportunity and outcome gaps for students of color, first-generation students, families with economic challenges, and exceptional and diverse learners—setting students up for success in college and careers.

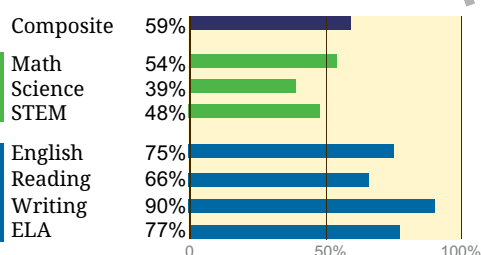
Learn more about these and more strategies for using ACT scores on the K-12 Professionals resources page: act.org/k12resources.



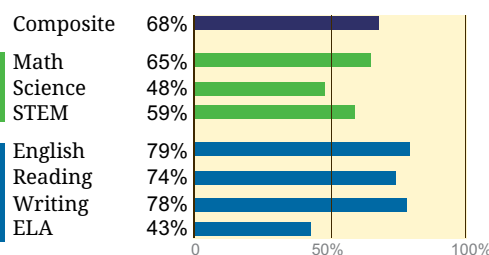
Student Report



US Rank



State Rank



US & State Rank
Your ranks tell you the approximate percentages of recent high school graduates in the US and your state who took the ACT® test and received scores that are the same as or lower than your scores. For example, a rank of 56 for your Composite score means 56% of students earned that Composite score or below.

Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA)

ACT seeks to help you serve all students. For your students with disabilities and those who are not proficient in English, you request accommodations and English learner (EL) supports through the Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) system. Authorized accommodations and supports are available for national, state, and district testing.



UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

Pre-Recorded Audio. Pre-recorded audio files are available for download in addition to the USB drive. This will allow schools to use hardware which does not have USB capabilities.

ASL and ASL Video. Beginning in Spring 2024, this new accommodation will allow students with a reading disability who use ASL as their primary mode of communication to have improved access to the ACT. Deaf students with a reading impairment will be able to view all test items and answer choices in a pre-recorded video in ASL. This feature will be embedded within the computer based test engine. For products that do not yet have VSL capability, local interpretation may be

allowed as well (with approval).

Reader's Script to Support Sighted Learners.

There is now a reader's script for students with a reading disability which does not reference braille materials. These scripts will be provided for those students with authorization for the Human Reader accommodation. Students with low vision or blindness can still be provided with a reader's script that will continue to reference the braille materials.

EBAE braille. English Braille American Edition (EBAE) is no longer available. ACT continues to offer Unified English Braille (UEB) with UEB math/science and UEB with Nemeth.

MyACT

Students use the online platform [MyACT](#) to do the following:

- Register for the National ACT test
- Find National test center locations
- Find information about accommodations
- View and send score reports—Select four colleges to receive free reports (up to 2 days post-testing)
- Access online practice tests
- Purchase official ACT test prep products
- Access frequently asked questions
- Plan for college and career with free personalized inventories and more
- Opt in to the [Educational Service Opportunity \(EOS\)](#) program

Non-test questions in MyACT. Students now complete non-test questions in MyACT. Answers to these questions indicate the colleges or scholarship agencies where students want their test scores sent. Test Coordinators can view a report that shows MyACT engagement with non-test questions and college choices by their students. The [myactprofile.com](#) page serves as a resource for schools, parents, and students, so they all have visibility into MyACT questions.

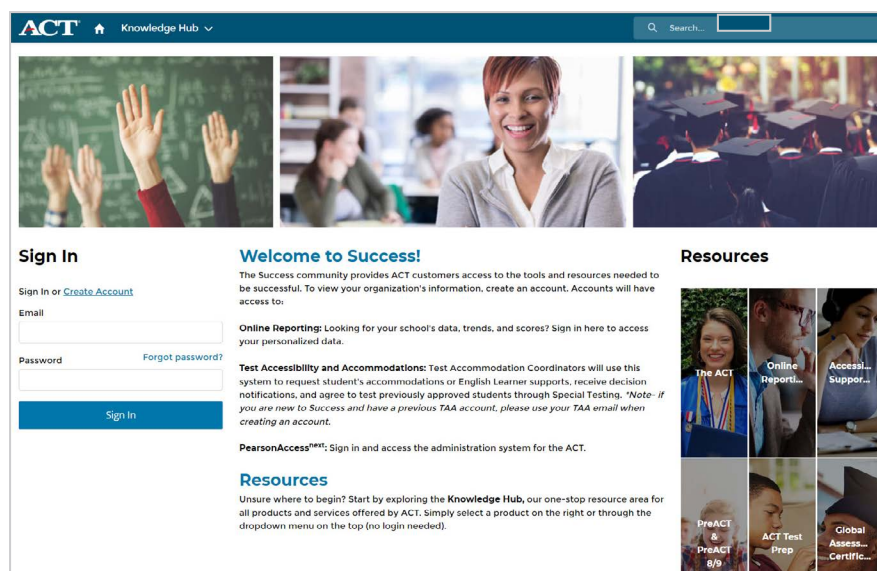
Online Reporting

As an additional feature of the ACT test, **online reporting** provides schools and districts the ability to view current and historical student data and disaggregate, filter, and customize reports. This is done via an interactive, dynamic interface and data visualization tools (see page 32). Contract states can view contract reports as well as national, state, and district data. The data is available online after each test administration. Data is on-demand, centralized, easily accessible, and downloadable in real-time for reporting on your ACT assessments.

No cost. Note that ACT online reporting is available to all schools, states, and districts with ACT testing data at no cost through success.act.org. Please contact your local Trusted Agent for access.

Interface portal. The reporting portal offers:

- Easy access to reports
- Drill-down capabilities
- Saving of custom reports
- ACT data after each national test
- Access to historical data



UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

Online Reporting for PreACT programs.

PreACT and PreACT 8/9 data files are available in the ACT Online Reporting tool. This allows authorized users to easily access student-level data files, for PreACT programs through the Download Hub on your success.act.org account.

Roster and summary views. The roster view includes the official student score report that can be downloaded as a PDF. This can be translated

into Spanish. The roster tab also includes the Early Intervention Roster reports. The new summary view is the online equivalent of the reports currently available on paper.

Additional training resources. Various online reporting training resources are now available to help you learn more about user access and the online reporting tool.

EXPLORING CAREER GOALS

NUMBERS TO NOTE

Core Curriculum Scores

ACT research has consistently shown that students who report taking the recommended core curriculum are more likely to be ready for college or career than those who don't. To the point:

- The class of 2022 average ACT composite score among students who said they completed a core curriculum was 22.0.
- The average for students who said they completed less than a core curriculum was 19.4.

[Read more.](#)

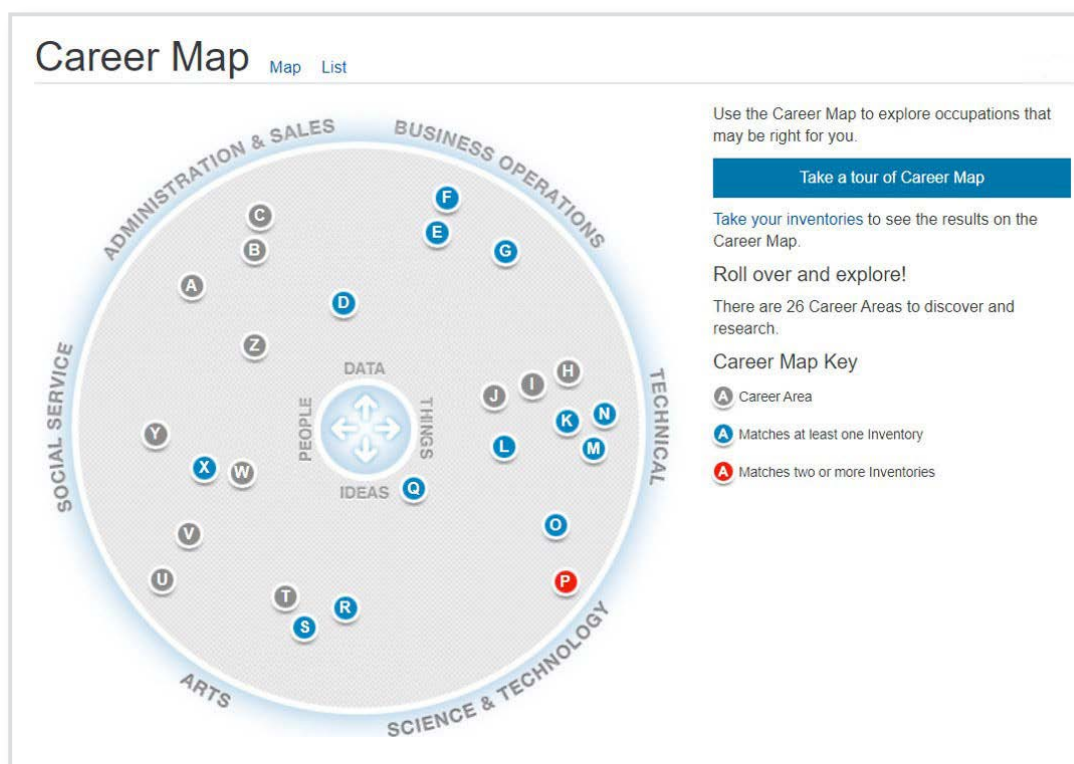
ACT test scores reflect what students have learned throughout high school. Many times, students who aren't considering higher education rethink their plans when they see their ACT test results. This is especially true for underrepresented students. To support college and career planning, the ACT offers a career exploration component to help students identify career options.

Career readiness focuses on jobs within a particular career cluster (for example, health care, construction, information technology) and determines both the specific academic skills and the performance level of those skills required for readiness in those jobs. Additional cognitive competencies may also be identified that are essential for success in specific career clusters and occupations.

MyACT Career Planning Tools

The MyACT planning tools facilitate the exploration of personally-relevant career options, which promotes good-fit choices and career decidedness.

MyACT Career Map. Research using extensive occupation data were used in the development of Career Map, an interactive format for students to explore and discover their best fit with majors and careers. Students complete three inventories (interest, abilities, and values). The results of these inventories are aggregated and displayed in the Career Map for the student.



RETESTING TO MANAGE GOALS

The ACT test is designed for the 10th, 11th, and/or 12th grade levels to provide schools and districts with the data necessary to help position students for success after high school. Test scores can:

- Help students get into college or other postsecondary programs
- Give students information on careers they might enjoy
- Lead to scholarship and financial aid opportunities

Competitive advantage. The higher a student's ACT score, the more competitive advantage the student has. Having the option to retake tests allows the student to set and adjust goals for success as many times as needed. Some results to consider:

- **Lowest scores and greatest gains:** The percentage of students increasing scores upon retests is higher when their initial score is low, as compared to gains made by students whose initial scores are high.
- **Curriculum coverage in test intervals:** As time between testing sessions increases, greater curriculum coverage occurs in the intervals, so students can use their results to master more of the tested material in their classes.

Superscores

Superscores offer the best of the retest options. Here's how they work:

- The ACT superscore combines a student's top scores in each ACT subject area from multiple ACT administrations into one score that best reflects the student's abilities.
- ACT calculates and reports a superscore for students who have taken the ACT test more than once. Scores from state and district testing and international testing are also used in this calculation as well as scores from previous years.
- To receive an ACT superscore a student must first take a full ACT battery. Superscores are available as soon as scoring is completed on the second ACT test.

Superscoring for all. Superscoring is fair to all students, regardless of their gender, race/ethnicity, family income level, or parental education level. Research found that the differences in test performance between student groups did not change with superscoring, which shows superscoring does not disadvantage one group over another. [Read more.](#)

NUMBERS TO NOTE

Real Value of Retakes

ACT research has shown that retesting has real value for learning:

- Of students testing in 2015, 57% showed an increase in their score after they retested.
- Research from 2016 has shown that retesting the ACT at least once is associated with increases in average composite scores when comparing first and second test instances.
- Thirty-five percent of the ACT-tested graduating class of 2022 took the ACT more than once, as compared to 32% for the 2021 cohort.

[Read more.](#)

TEST DATE	ENGLISH SCORE	MATH SCORE	READING SCORE	SCIENCE SCORE	COMPOSITE SCORE
APRIL	19	20	23	21	21
JUNE	22	22	20	22	22
SEPTEMBER	20	23	21	21	21

Pre **ACT**[®]Pre **ACT**[®] 8/9Pre **ACT**[®] Secure[™]**PreACT Participation Boost**

Within schools that administer the PreACT, students who participated in the PreACT Educational Opportunity Service were more likely to send their ACT scores to at least four colleges and at least one out-of-state college.

**UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS**

PreACT Secure. PreACT with an option for the similar secure administrative operations as the ACT launched in 2023. PreACT Secure will be offered through state and district services in an online format only.

PreACT and PreACT 8/9 results in Online Reporting.

Now authorized users can easily access student level data files for PreACT programs through the Download Hub on your account. Simply establish a **Trusted Agent** if your organization doesn't have one already. Then [sign in](#) to the score reporting portal.

The PreACT[®] Suite

Begin assessing college and career readiness with our PreACT suite. Anchored by the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards, the PreACT suite helps educators, students, and parents identify areas of academic strength and opportunity.

The suite provides educators the opportunity to track and monitor student progress with convenience and efficiency, as the test can be given once a year, or as a pre- and post-test model, in a little over two hours, and on your own schedule.

PreACT[®] 8/9

PreACT 8/9 gives 8th and 9th graders an early practice experience for the ACT test. It also provides predicted PreACT and ACT score ranges and serves as an early indicator of college and career readiness.

Time: During the school day, September 1–June 1

Format options: Paper only

Test subjects: English, math, reading, science, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)

Question types: Multiple-choice only

Test security: Booklets of test-takers retained retained by student/schools

Pricing (2023–2024): \$18 per student for PreACT

PreACT[®]

PreACT offers 10th graders early experience with ACT-quality test items, predicted ACT test score ranges, and a personalized view of college and career possibilities indicated in the PreACT results.

Time: During the school day, September 1–June 1

Format options: Paper only

Test subjects: English, math, reading, science

Question types: Multiple-choice only

Test security: Booklets of test-takers retained by student/schools

Pricing (2023–2024): \$18 per student for PreACT

PreACT[®] Secure

PreACT Secure provides 10th graders the same opportunities and benefits as PreACT, with the following differences in administration:

Format options: Online only, except paper accommodations

Test security: Secure online test; *all paper test booklets returned to ACT*

Secure-use case services: As with the ACT, course placement, dual enrollment, local accountability, and local scholarship application

Pricing (2023–2024): \$20 per student for PreACT Secure

PREDICTING FOR GOAL SETTING

How and when you administer the PreACT suite may depend on how you use the results, which provide valuable diagnostic data.

Norms and levels. PreACT 8/9 norms are part of the reporting, and grade-levels are part of the PreACT and PreACT 8/9 predictions. This allows educators and students to analyze their results and target learning gaps so they're ready for rigorous high school curriculum.

Progress toward NCRC. The test also provides vital and specific career interest information. This early indicator predicts the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) score that students are likely to obtain with their specific PreACT scores. The ACT NCRC is an assessment-based credential that documents foundational work skills important for job success across industries and occupations (see page 23).

Pre- and post-testing. Many schools use the PreACT 8/9 and the PreACT as pre- and post-assessments at each grade level, starting at 8th grade and moving through spring of 10th grade. This provides data to help educators use the PreACT assessments as diagnostics, based on the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards.

MORE than a SCORE

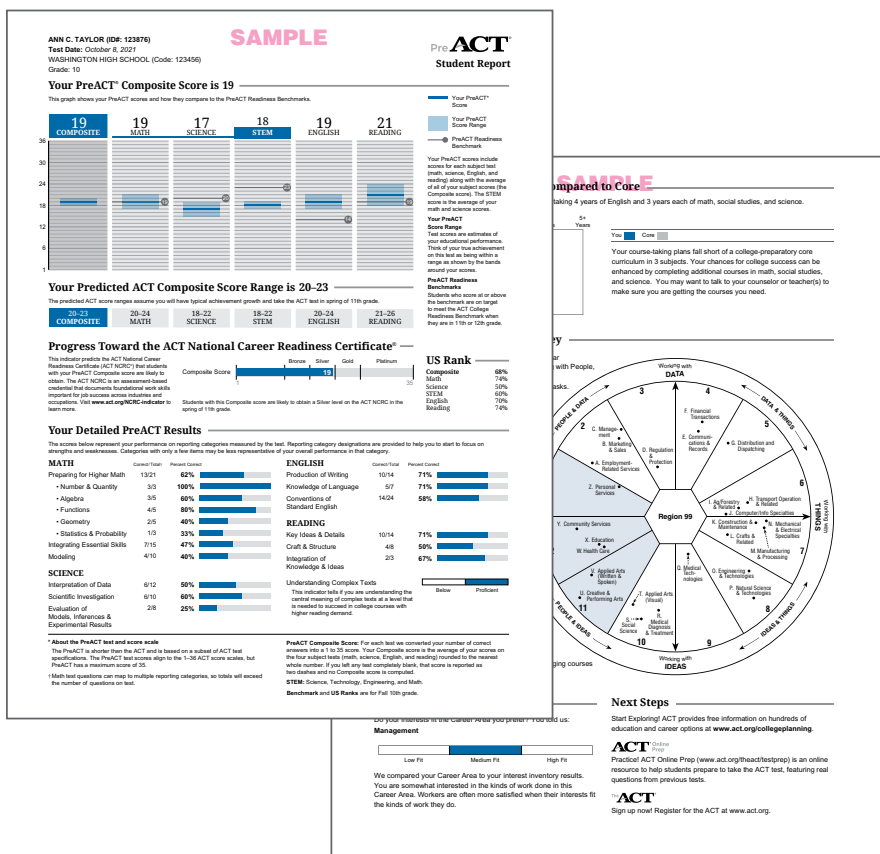
STRATEGY #3: ACCURATE COURSE PLACEMENT

Show more accurate achievement for proper course placement.

Many colleges and universities encourage applicants to submit ACT scores for course placement or direct admission into certain majors—even if their general university policy is test optional.

ACT results are standards-based and can often be submitted for math, English, and STEM prerequisites, avoiding additional placement testing.

Learn more about these and more strategies for using ACT scores on the K-12 Professionals resources page: act.org/k12resources.





AIM and Content Confidence

As educators, you can grow your own content confidence and improve outcomes for students with ACT Instructional Mastery training. Develop a deep understanding of the way your subject is tested by the ACT test and learn new strategies for test-taking and student preparation. Then watch your results improve!

“For me, the best part of the ACT reading training course was bringing all of the pieces I already had as an ACT teacher for struggling students, into a cohesive teaching strategy that enabled me to understand the big picture instead of focusing on individual pieces.”

— Jennifer Deal, English /
Intensive Language Arts
teacher, North Port High
School, Sarasota, FL

Train to Guide Student Paths

Use professional training and services to master content and guide student paths.

ACT® Instructional Mastery (AIM)

ACT Instructional Mastery is a comprehensive and in-depth professional growth program for educators who are preparing students to take the ACT test. Primarily intended for high school teachers, this program is offered to schools, school systems, and educator organizations.

ACT course coverage. Courses are available in each of the five ACT subject tests: English, math, reading, science, and writing.

Time and format. Each course is typically a 14-hour program presented live by an ACT expert. A course is typically delivered over two six-hour days. Courses are offered in both online/virtual and onsite/in-person formats, with a maximum of 30 participants for each course.

Key learning objectives. Courses are designed to provide educators the skills most critical for successful student preparation for the ACT test. In each course, participants do deep dives into the test itself, learning:

- Standards, specifications, item and passage types, item analysis
- Valuable test-taking strategies that participants practice themselves to be better prepared to teach their students
- Test preparation instruction strategies and resources that teachers can immediately embed into their classroom teaching

Valid value. All participants who complete the 14-hour program receive a certificate of attendance. Those who complete the course training and an end-of-course subject-specific assessment receive a certificate for ACT Instructional Mastery in that subject as well as a digital badge platformed on Credly for use on LinkedIn and other digital sites.



UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

AIM. AIM workshops are now often delivered by ACT content specialists and item-writers, bringing participants first hand insight into the process by which ACT designs test forms and crafts test questions.

ACT Professional Services

As former teachers and administrators with decades of combined classroom and school and district service, the [ACT Professional Services](#) team supports educators in achieving their missions with professional learning programs that provide the following:

- Strategic and actionable workshops, providing insight and resources to your school or district ACT needs.
- Focused workshop topics that can be scheduled in available PD days, over several days or at specific times during the year.

Interactive and engaging. Activities and resources provided in the program sessions model the interactive, hands-on/minds-on activities needed to engage your teachers, instructional coaches, department chairs and administrators.

Categories. ACT professional learning programs are offered in four categories:

- **The ACT, PreACT, PreACT 8/9, and ACT WorkKeys:** View our catalog of workshops focusing on data interpretation/analysis, ACT Online Prep, WorkKeys and ACT Subject Content workshops.
- **ACT Instructional Mastery:** See previous page.
- **Social and Emotional Learning:** See page 26.
- **Teaching and Learning Best Practices:** A 10% discount will be offered



TRAINING TO TEST AND PLAN A **PATH**

NUMBERS TO NOTE

Online Training Resources for ACT State and District Testing

For the ACT state and district webpages, dozens of training and resource materials are provided for the seven steps in the testing process:

- 1 **Orientation** – Learn about test formats and policies; select test dates and provide shipping information; select test staff and set up accounts.
- 2 **Configuration** – Upload student data records; verify enrollment for test materials order test materials.
- 3 **Accommodation** – Learn about accessibility supports; request accommodations and/or supports; request reconsideration or late consideration.
- 4 **Preparation** – Complete non-test activities; provide examinees test prep information; prepare your facility, staff, and materials; update examinee information.
- 5 **Administration** – Administer the test.
- 6 **Transportation** – Return test materials.
- 7 **Interpretation** – Access and understand score reports; share reporting information with examinees.

A successful, worry-free testing experience for educators is the goal of ACT training for testing staff—designated as test coordinators, technology coordinators, room supervisors, and proctors. Testing staff are typically drawn from among teachers and other educators in your school or district.

Training topics. Test training and resources components cover topics such as test policies and procedures, registering students, preparing for test day, test materials security, and using test results. Implementation and integration of testing software is included as well.

Training materials. The goal of a successful testing experience is supported by providing the following to your testing staff:

- Various tools for test session set-up
- Overview and step-by-step video tutorials
- Practice tests
- Quick-start implementation guides
- Test administration manuals

Training timing and approach. Self-guided, activity-based resources are provided as an initial engagement of support, with opportunities to arrange face-to-face training experiences. Timely training is important for efficient and effective onboarding to the ACT testing experience, so most training materials are available online, including on-demand webinars.

Interpreting test results. Some of the training materials are aimed at students as well as testing staff. Among these are those about interpreting test results. ACT provides guides, infographics, and other materials to help you and your students answer the following questions, based on their test result reports:

- *How am I doing so far?*
- *What are my plans and goals after high school?*
- *Am I on target for college and career readiness?*

Go to <https://www.act.org/state-and-district-testing> for more information about administering ACT District Testing (weekday test) in your school or district.

Prepare Students for Assessment Success

ACT® Online Prep

Provide aligned test prep to support effective test practice.

ACT Test Prep and More

Taking the ACT test is a major step along a student's college and career journey, but preparation for the ACT begins with quality core instruction. You can help students amplify their learning of core content and skills with [official ACT test prep](#) and select the best options for them, to make sure they know what to expect and how to prepare.

ACT Online Prep (AOP)

Tools, analytics, and real-time data make the [ACT Online Prep \(AOP\)](#) program ideal for monitoring student success in ACT-aligned instruction in core courses and test prep for the ACT test.

Approach. Three models are available for you to use, sometimes simultaneously, to implement AOP and increase student outcomes:

- Supplemental Curriculum to Core Classroom Teaching: Content Reteach, Preteach, and Mastery Practice**

Teachers can use the content to pre-teach content and skills, teach in whole-group, small-group, or for individual student lessons, or even regularly assign lessons or assessments as bell-ringer activities. This puts content that aligns with the ACT test in the teachers' hands for scaffolded classroom instruction aimed at mastery.

- Teacher-Facilitated: Content Development, Test Preparation, and Strategy Development**

Using the extensive AOP content in an ACT Test Prep class gives the facilitator the tools needed to guide students through the content in a data-driven fashion. The reports show how students are growing and reveal the areas where students might need more time. The ACT Online Prep Educator Guide includes strategies for [implementing AOP into the classroom](#).



TEST OPTIMAL

Multiple Test Prep Options

If you look at our test prep options on the ACT website, you'll see this promise: Delivered by the experts, designed to fit your study preferences and your budget, ACT provides the test prep to suit your needs. Offering various test prep options is one way we optimize your testing experience.

**MORE than a
SCORE****STRATEGY #4:
SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN
APPLICATIONS**

Set them up for financial success. An ACT score can open doors for students and help them avoid financial burden in the future. If they take the test and score well, students will be eligible for thousands of dollars in scholarships just based on their scores.

Learn more about these and more strategies for using ACT scores on the K-12 Professionals resources page: act.org/k12resources.

3. Student Self-Directed: Content Reinforcement, Test Familiarization, and Testing Strategies

Motivated students may do well with a self-directed test prep approach, but to increase outcomes for more/all students, you should consider a facilitative approach.

Content. In the AOP program, students are provided with two full-length ACT Practice Exam experiences. The course includes 4 short subject tests (English, math, reading, and science)—that are very helpful for using in classroom instruction—and 2 writing prompt options. The course includes hundreds of hours of study plans, lessons, and over 2,000 practice questions! In addition, content in AOP has been organized to better guide the student through the content by subject and by ACT Reporting Categories. It offers a personalized learning path and tracks progress at the individual and aggregate levels; in other words, it's flexible as part of a test prep program within a classroom or as a learning enhancement.

INTERVENING FOR SUCCESS

For high school students impacted by disrupted learning or who have learning gaps, the [AOP Toolkit](#) can provide fast and accurate assessment of areas where they need interventions, based on the ACT Reporting Categories.

Reporting data. Instructors and school test coordinators have access to multiple reports providing feedback on performance on practice questions, and tests for individual students and/or groups.

Anytime administration. ACT Online Prep is a web-based test preparation program. For maximum test prep flexibility, students can access AOP online or through an app on their mobile devices so they can learn whenever or wherever they want.

**TEST OPTIMAL****Free Test Prep Option**

Two of our test prep options are free! In addition to the free online practice test available in MyACT, you can download *Preparing for the ACT Test* from the ACT website. It includes helpful hints and test-taking strategies, as well as one complete practice ACT test. It provides a great introduction to the format and layout of the test.

Official ACT Test Prep Products

Official test prep guides remain a popular option for students and families to help students prepare to take the ACT test. These products contain authentic practice tests and are great resources for teachers, providing curriculum-based items and passages, as well as other information to help teachers align their courses with the expectations of the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards as well as the ACT test. Please check out our [ACT Official Subject Guides – 2nd Edition](#).

The Official ACT Subject Guides

Description: Step-by-step information for each section test, allowing you to familiarize yourself with the types of questions you can expect to see on test day

Why Use This Option: Concept-based outlines for the section you plan to focus on

Format: Books & Online Feature

The Official ACT Self-Pace Course powered by Kaplan

Description: Test content and test-day strategies available anywhere, anytime with on-demand tutorials led by an expert from Kaplan

Why Use This Option: The 6-month unlimited access subscription provides ample opportunity to prepare for the test with thousands of practice items

Format: On-Demand Videos

The Official ACT Live Online Class powered by Kaplan

Description: Test content and test-day strategies provided in a virtual classroom led by an expert from Kaplan who can answer your questions and adapt to your needs in real time

Why Use This Option: Access to everything in The Official ACT Self-Paced Course, plus 16 hours of live instruction

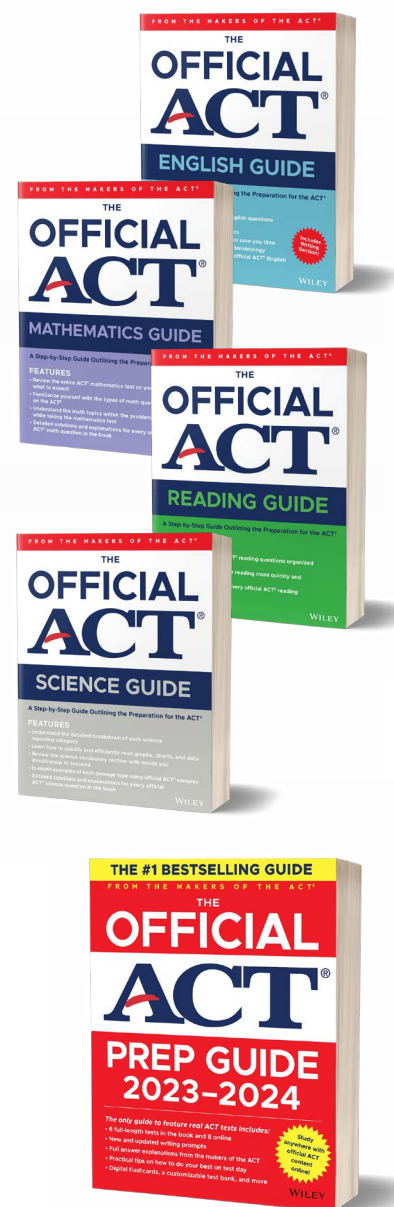
Format: Virtual Classroom

The Official ACT Prep Guide

Description: Real test questions and detailed explanations for every answer to help you get familiar with the format so you can approach the ACT with confidence and perform your best

Why Use This Option: A comprehensive guide to fully prepare for the test in book format with an ancillary digital experience to extend your prep online

Format: Book & Online Features



ACT[®] **WorkKeys**[®]

ACT[®] **WorkKeys**[®]
Assessments

ACT[®] **WorkKeys**[®]
Curriculum

Commit to Assess, Certify, and Grow

Help create a thriving workforce ecosystem that fosters economic growth.

“ACT’s extensive occupational resources are a great asset to the work our economic development team does with our local employer base and helps to inform conversations about skills with both private industry and education..”

— Ana Stomp, Economic Development Specialist,
City of Cedar Rapids,
Cedar Rapids, IA

ACT offers leading workforce development solutions for businesses and communities that help them commit to do the following:

- **Assess:** Measure the talent in their workforce with high-quality, research-based assessments.
- **Certify:** Go beyond assessment, giving their team members a tangible result of their efforts with globally recognized scores and certificates.
- **Grow:** Provide learning opportunities to elevate careers and close skills gaps, building and retaining talented teams that thrive while fostering success in the community.

WorkKeys[®] Suite

You can help to ensure that your students—especially those underrepresented students seeking career and technical specialties—are prepared for life beyond their diploma with the ACT WorkKeys suite of solutions. **ACT WorkKeys** is a system of assessments and curriculum designed to build and measure essential workplace skills. These skills can affect an individual’s job performance and increase their opportunities for career changes and advancement.

WorkKeys[®] Assessments

The **WorkKeys Assessments** include tests that measure essential workplace skills, as well as interests, values, and behaviors that can lead to greater job satisfaction. Most tests are web-based and take one hour. These are the assessments offered, which can be taken in any order:

- **Applied Math:** Measures critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, and problem-solving techniques for situations that actually occur in today’s workplace.
- **Graphic Literacy:** Measures the skills needed to locate, synthesize, and use information from workplace graphics.
- **Workplace Documents:** Measures the skills people apply on the job when they read and use written text such as memos, letters, directions, signs, notices, bulletins, policies, and regulations.

- **Applied Technology:** Measures basic principles and skills in four areas of technology: electricity, mechanics, fluid dynamics, and thermodynamics.
- **Business Writing:** Measures the skills used when writing an original response to a work-related situation.
- **Workplace Observation:** Measures skills in observing, understanding, evaluating, and following processes, demonstrations, and other workplace procedures.
- **Fit:** Measures an individual's interests and values and matches them to the work environment.
- **Talent:** Helps employers find and develop employees by measuring work-related attitudes and behaviors.

ACT® National Career Readiness Certificate®

By successfully completing the assessments in Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents, students can earn the **National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)**.

Students may earn a Platinum, Gold, Silver, or Bronze certificate, depending on their scores on these three assessments. Students earning a Silver and above are eligible to receive college credit for the certificate.



WorkKeys assessment reports. All scored reports are available in the WorkKeys Reports Portal. WorkKeys assessment reports required for the NCRC have both level and scale scores, which indicate an ability to perform more complex skills as the scores increase. Each type has a different purpose:

- **Level scores:** These are often used in hiring and advancements decisions. They're based on ACT WorkKeys job profiles, which are a snapshot of the skills needed for a particular occupation.
- **Scale scores:** These are used by educators to track growth in skills over time. They aren't used for hiring or advancement decisions. [The Scale Score Interpretation Guide](#) helps to explain what the score is, how it can be used, and how it was developed.

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

NCRC digital badges. Since 2022, students who earn the NCRC can highlight their essential workplace knowledge, skills, and achievements via digital credentials. Students can use the credentials as a digital transcript, on an application for apprenticeships, or directly in a job search. Check with your ACT account representative to see if this option is available for the students within your contract.

TEST OPTIMAL

MyWorkKeys

To support users e-managing their WorkKeys Assessments, ACT creates free ACT WorkKeys accounts for examinees on MyWorkKeys. Here examinees can manage their assessments and NCRCs, print copies of certificates, and share their credentials publicly. Making credentials public provides potential employers a URL to verify the examinee's certification online.

NUMBERS TO NOTE

Higher NCRC Levels Correlate to Higher Income Levels

Performing well on the ACT WorkKeys Assessments and earning a higher WorkKeys NCRC level can help people secure higher incomes in the short and long terms, research confirms. Individuals who took WorkKeys in 2011 and earned an NCRC tended to increase their incomes at a rate much greater than national trends. Short-term income trends were similar for all high school WorkKeys testers, but those who earned higher NCRC levels—especially Gold or Platinum—increased their incomes at a much faster rate starting three years after testing.

[Read more.](#)

NUMBERS TO NOTE**Progress Indicator and Refreshed WorkKeys**

The Progress Toward the ACT NCRC indicator provides students who take the ACT with information about their level of career readiness based on their ACT composite score. More specifically, this indicator provides an estimate of students' likely achievement level for the ACT WorkKeys NCRC.

Based on the most recent ACT/WorkKeys linking study, students who earn an ACT composite score of:

- <13 are unlikely to obtain an ACT NCRC
- 13 to 16 are most likely to obtain a Bronze NCRC
- 17 to 21 are most likely to obtain a Silver NCRC
- 22 to 26 are most likely to obtain a Gold NCRC

Keep in mind that this indicator is not to be substituted for an actual NCRC obtained by taking the WorkKeys assessments; instead, it serves to encourage students to reflect upon and possibly develop the knowledge and skills needed for career readiness and workplace success.

[Read more.](#)

WorkKeys® Curriculum

The **ACT WorkKeys Curriculum** helps individuals build the essential career-relevant skills needed for training, personal development, and effective job performance.

Multimodal skills building. The courses in the WorkKeys Curriculum provide a multimodal opportunity to build skills measured by the WorkKeys assessments (except Fit and Talent). It's the only curriculum built to align with NCRC assessments.

Social emotional learning. The WorkKeys Fit and Talent assessments help students identify their strengths and areas to work on, including those related to SEL. The WorkKeys Curriculum Essential Skills courses help students build life and employability skills that will help them become more successful at work and throughout their career:

- Working in Teams
- Interpersonal and Business Communication
- Work Discipline
- Customer Service
- Problem Solving and Critical Thinking
- Financial Awareness

Supportive platform. The easy-to-implement courses in WorkKeys Curriculum are delivered via a personalized, mobile-enabled learning management system. The platform provides users with a customized study schedule in addition to the detailed instructional content. The interface includes support tools for students such as read aloud, single-word translation, dictionary, picture dictionary, answer masking, and screen masking.

WorkKeys Curriculum reports. WorkKeys Curriculum offers real-time reports, which are available from the reporting dashboard and include student performance data and time spent data for student using the program. Quiz Reports are in-app downloadable reports on student performance on all attempts on quizzes included in courses to which the student has access. The session detail reports include these options:

- **Individual session detail report:** Each individual student session launched is included in a report. Sessions may be filtered by student, course, and/or date range. The summary data including session start, session end, and session duration is displayed online. Additional data on time spent on lessons, practice questions, or quizzes can be exported as a .csv file.
- **Student aggregate session detail report:** This report, with aggregated session data, is an exportable .csv file. It includes one line per student with aggregated session data

Online Assessment Planner

You can organize all your student assessment options into the [ACT Online Assessment Planner](#). This tool allows you to plan a detailed schedule of assessments that will provide a sequence of data to support and enhance whole student learning from elementary through career.

The output is a simple, visual layout of your current assessments across grades and ACT Holistic Framework domains (see page 6). To make it even easier, it also includes recommended solutions to complete your comprehensive assessment plan.

This is a great tool for your district's or school's strategic plan. It's also helpful for building principals in helping to guide the writing of the building's school improvement plan.

ACT **SYSTEM** OF ASSESSMENTS



The ACT System of Assessments is reflected in the Online Assessment Planner. Use it with confidence, knowing that knowledge and skills align across products lines, for example among ACT and the PreACT Suite and Test Prep products, and among the WorkKeys Assessment and Curriculum products.

ACT

Online Assessment Planner

Begin Your Assessment Plan in 5 Easy Steps

1. Share Your Goal
2. Choose Grades For This Assessment Plan
3. Choose Grades Currently Being Served
4. Choose Your Purposes
5. Choose Your Assessments

Empower Students to Achieve Success

Help students succeed by teaching them empowering social and emotional skills.



The ACT mission is “Helping people achieve education and workplace success.” Decades of research have shown that social and emotional skills, which can be taught through SEL programs, are crucial to helping people achieve education and workplace success. At ACT, SEL is mission-critical, and we have spent valuable time and resources developing research-based SEL curricula and assessments.

Mosaic™ by ACT®

A comprehensive solution. Mosaic by ACT SEL is a complete and comprehensive program:

- **Assessment:** Mosaic SEL assessments are part of a comprehensive system designed to measure five social emotional skills and two dimensions of school climate from elementary through high school. The online assessments use multiple item types to provide students, parents, teachers, and schools with a holistic picture of students’ strengths, areas for improvement, and their perception of school safety and quality of relationships with school personnel. Assessments take approximately 20 minutes to complete and yield student- and school-level reports that provide actionable feedback on each skill.
- **Screener:** Based on the growing need for quick and frequent pulse checks on social emotional skills, Mosaic offers the SEL Screener for grades 3-12. It measures the same social and emotional skills and dimensions of school climate as the full assessment but uses fewer items and item types. The Screener takes 5-7 minutes to complete, yields school-level information, and can be administered up to four times over the course of a year to quickly pinpoint areas of strength, improvement, and perception of school climate.
- **Curriculum:** Our robust SEL curriculum addresses the unique needs of students from Pre-K–12, including specialized programming for English learners. Student assignments are included at the end of each lesson to measure student understanding and progress on SEL standards.
- **Professional development:** We offer impactful professional development for educators, including materials to support students and educators in building systemic trauma-informed practices. In addition, we offer a variety of options for additional face-to-face, virtual, and train-the-trainer SEL professional development.

NUMBERS TO NOTE

SEL and ACT Test Scores

A recent study by ACT researchers examined the relationship between social and emotional skills and ACT test scores. The results showed that students who scored higher on social and emotional skills also achieved higher ACT Composite scores. This finding holds true for all of the skills measured by Mosaic, and especially for Sustaining Effort, where the difference between low- and high-sustaining effort students was over 4 ACT Composite points.

[Read more.](#)

Evidence-based and aligned SEL resources. For the past 17 years, ACT has been supporting students and educators with evidence-based social and emotional learning resources:

- Our SEL program is backed by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), and the IMS Global Learning Consortium.
- Our SEL curriculum for grades 6–8 has earned CASEL’s SElect designation.

Flexibility. Mosaic by ACT SEL is a flexible program that can be delivered in a blended learning environment through a combination of in-person and digital delivery. ACT offers multiple deployment options, including integration with all major Learning Management Systems.

Equity focus. ACT believes every student deserves the opportunity to achieve academic and workplace success. Our SEL program empowers students by teaching them how to identify their personal assets, motivate themselves, and empathize with others to fulfill their potential and become the heroes they know they can be.

Measurable results. Our assessments come with enhanced reporting include summary level and detailed reports that provide information about students’ social and emotional skills as well as insight regarding the school and district climate. The reports can also be used as a tool for measuring SEL growth and facilitating conversations with a student, parent, or educator about SEL skills.

NUMBERS TO NOTE

ACT has learned that students experienced increased challenges to their mental health and academic progress during the pandemic.

In a new report, ACT found that the majority of students reported that the pandemic had a negative effect on their:

- motivation to learn
- time management and organizational skills
- focus and discipline
- relationships with friends

As prior SEL research shows, all of these are essential for success in school (as well as work and life) and can be measured by our assessments and developed and refined with the help of our curriculum solutions.

Students’ reflections on the effects of the pandemic.



UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

Dashboard and user support. Mosaic by ACT SEL

dashboard features:

- Measure college and career readiness using the high school assessment Mosaic Readiness Index
- Interventions Tab provides teachers with resources to improve students’ SEL skills
- Gain district insights using district roster and aggregate reports

The reports and dashboard are accompanied by a user’s guide, implementation strategy guides, and links to recorded support videos/webinars.

Support Readiness Equity



Provide necessary support for college and career readiness for all students.

ACT® Center for Equity in Learning

The **ACT Center for Equity in Learning** (the Center) focuses on closing gaps in equity, opportunity, and achievement for all learners throughout their education and career journey.

The Center's work covers four areas:

- **Collaborations:** The Center works with a network of organizations to advance shared interests in research and advocacy, and to support efforts aimed at closing equity gaps. Through these strategic collaborations, the Center aims to provide all learners throughout their education and career journey.
- **Research:** The Center's research goal is to produce evidence-based insights that will help guide and support thought leadership and will help to inform changes in policy and practice. This work is designed to improve learning and achievement for all populations to reach their full potential.
- **Accessibility:** ACT is committed to closing equity and achievement gaps by offering all students, regardless of their circumstances, the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired. The Center serves to amplify and support ACT's accessibility and accommodations efforts, including supports for English learners and others, to decrease barriers to learning and engagement.
- **Social responsibility and impact:** Each year, ACT invests a portion of its revenue to ensure equitable increase access to ACT products, insights, and other resources for learners in need. In particular, the Center creates and strengthens collaborations with other organizations to accelerate the positive impact it has on the life of each learner. Through the Fee Waiver program, the American College Application Campaign (both free resources), and many other efforts the Center provides benefits to learners experiencing barriers and hardships.

NUMBERS TO NOTE

**Higher NCRC Levels
Correlate to Higher
Income Levels**

Performing well on the ACT® WorkKeys® Assessments and earning a higher WorkKeys® NCRC level can help people secure higher incomes in the short and long terms, research confirms. Individuals who took WorkKeys in 2011 and earned an NCRC tended to increase their incomes at a rate much greater than national trends.

The American College Application Campaign

The American College Application Campaign® (ACAC) is a national effort, driven by the Center, to increase the number of first-generation college students and students from low-income families pursuing a college degree or other higher education credential. It provides education on why college matters and encourages college applications by assisting in the application process.

Why college matters. Higher education will determine the future of our nation. Often, income inequalities are driven by a lack of access to college. Not only are college graduates half as likely to be unemployed as those with only a high school diploma, they are also more likely to vote and be leaders in their communities.



Assisting with applications. The college application process can be confusing and daunting for students. ACAC events assist high school seniors, including those systemically underserved, with submitting at least one college application. Participating high schools break down the steps of the application process and meet students where they are—in high school during the school day. By working across schools, across communities, and across state lines, the ACAC can more successfully impact who pursues education and training beyond high school.

MORE than a SCORE

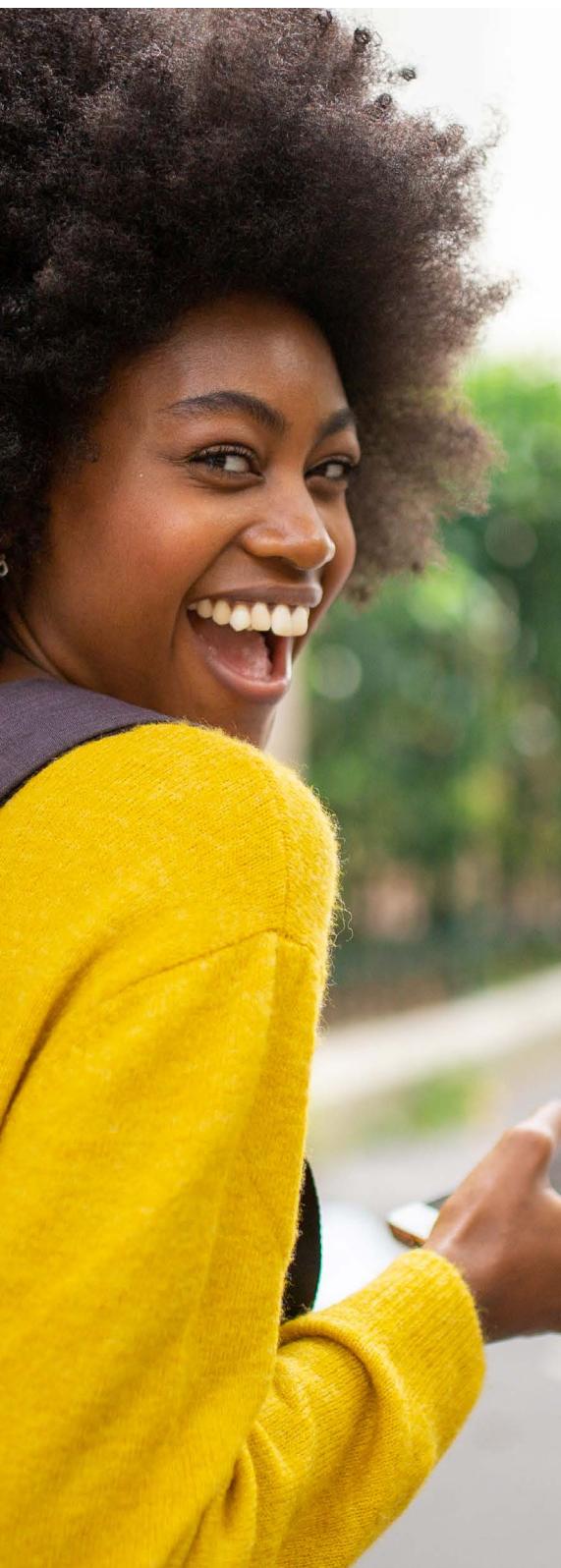
STRATEGY #5: ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

Just because test-optional institutions don't require applicants to submit scores doesn't mean they won't consider them if submitted. Continue to help students stand out in a sea of college applicants. With test-optional policies at the higher education institutions changing each season, having a score—whether they use it or not—for admission helps students stand out.

Learn more about these and more strategies for using ACT scores on the K-12 Professionals resources page: act.org/k12resources.

It's very important to make accommodations and to find resources for students and families to overcome any barriers to applying for education, such as language, financial concerns, and being the first in their family to go to college.

— Samina Ali, Counselor,
Johnson Senior High
School, St. Paul, MN



Fee Waivers—and More for Free

Current ACT initiatives underway to close the equity gap include:

- Fee waivers for the ACT test
- Free score reports
- Free test prep

These initiatives provide extra support for high school juniors and seniors from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Fee Waivers

ACT Fee Waivers are available to high schools, active Upward Bound projects, and qualifying not-for-profit assistance organizations. Officials who identify eligible students may contact ACT to order fee waivers. Fee waiver forms are delivered electronically, normally within ten working days of receiving the order. Eligible students add each fee waiver in MyACT, and the system applies the fee waiver upon registration. Students see the fee waiver use in their order history in MyACT.

Free Score Reports

Eligible students using fee waivers can send unlimited **Additional Score Reports (ASRs)** to colleges and universities when selecting the schools at registration. To be eligible, students must meet the following requirements:

- Be currently enrolled in high school in grade 11 or 12
- Be testing in the United States, US territories, or Puerto Rico
- Meet one or more indicators of economic need listed on the ACT Fee Waiver form

Free Test Prep

In addition to the free option, *Preparing for the ACT Test*, ACT offers free test prep to students using a fee waiver. Upon registration for the ACT test in MyACT, **The Official ACT Self-Paced Prep Course**, powered by Kaplan, is automatically added to the cart at \$0 for a 1-year subscription.



UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

All electronic. For easier delivery and application, fee waivers are delivered electronically only. Eligible students add their given fee waiver number during online registration in MyACT.

myOptions® Encourage™

myOptions Encourage is a college and career planning program that empowers educators with resources to help their students envision, plan for, and realize success after high school. myOptions Encourage serves about 1 million students annually across 5,000 school districts and 13,000 high schools in all 50 states.

The myOptions Encourage program includes a college and career preference form, a free app for students, and data insights for educators.


Personalized, step-by-step guidance supports students.

The Encourage app breaks college and career planning into small steps, making the process as easy to follow as possible. Students can use the Encourage app to match with colleges, find scholarships, learn about financial aid, explore careers, set goals, and keep track of personal milestones—all for free.

Resources help structure the big conversations about college & career. Students who participate in the myOptions Encourage in-school program can become more informed and intentional about the questions they ask as they learn how and when to ask them. Educators can hold deeper conversations about a student's plans, enabling them to provide better guidance.

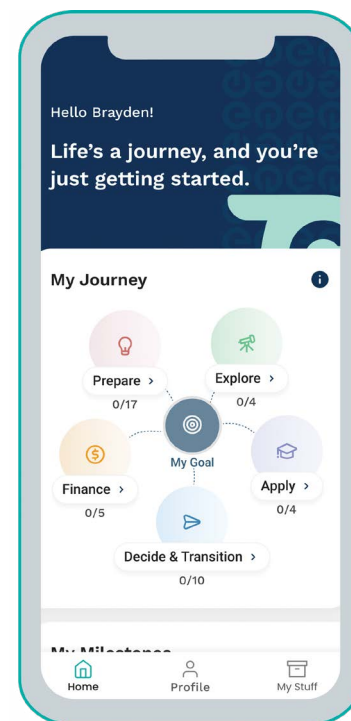
Access to local and national student data supports educators.

Educators participating in the myOptions Encourage College and Career Planning Program receive access to interactive reports of their participating students' postsecondary plans through our educator web app at no cost. The reports and dashboards visualize data on students' college plans alongside school, state, and national trends.



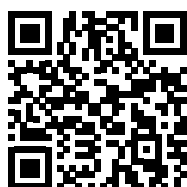
UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

Name change. MyOptions is now MyOptions Encourage for students and educators.

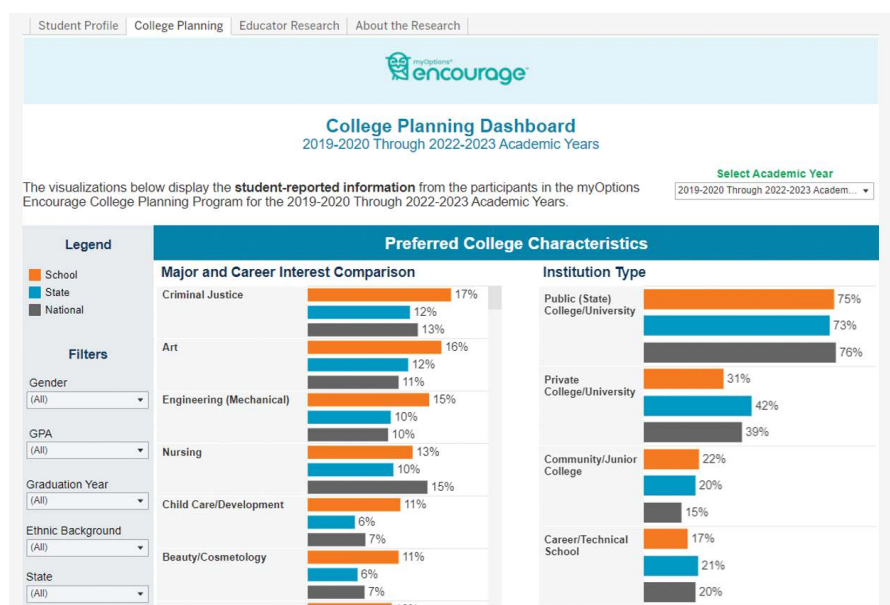


Connect with us!

We'd love to connect, demonstrate our tools, and show the suite of resources available to students and educators. Scan the code to book a short meeting with our team!



Learn more at
encourageme.com/educators



Data Visualization Tools

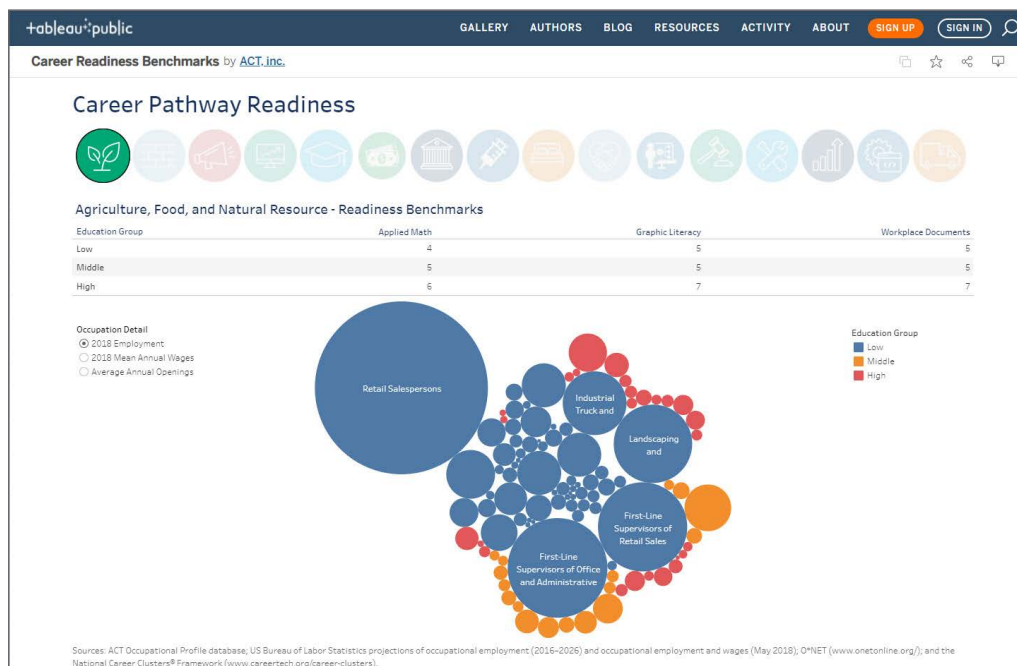
ACT provides interactive [data visualization tools](#) intended to answer questions and provide meaningful insights to those involved in improving education and career outcomes. These are designed to help students, parents, educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders make informed decisions.

The following data tools are available:

- [College Readiness](#)
- [US High School Graduating Class Data](#)
- [Average Composite Score Changes](#)
- [ACT Superscore Database](#)
- [Career Pathway and Industry Readiness](#)
- [Higher-Education Enrollment Management Databases](#)

These tools can be used to:

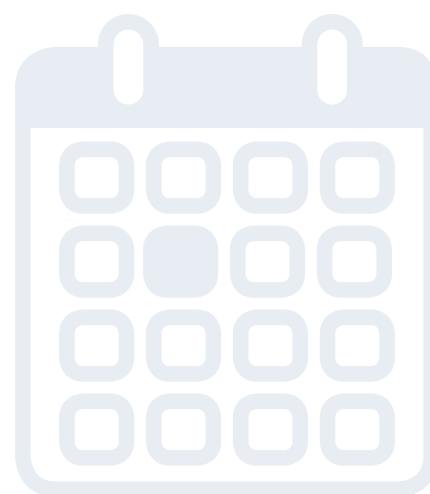
- Explore ACT data
- Show relationships between education, skills, and occupational wages
- View national and state data
- View the data included in the ACT Profile and ACT Condition of College and Career Readiness reports





TEST DATES

United States, US Territories, and Puerto Rico



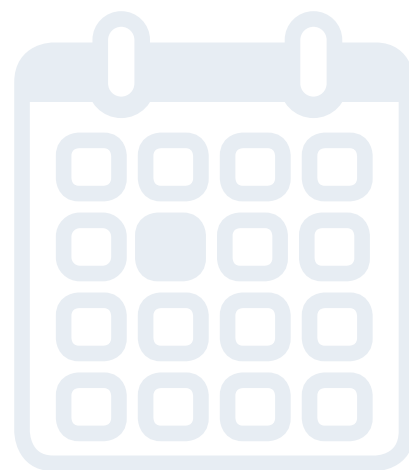
2023|2024

TEST DATES

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

	Regular Deadline	Late Deadline	Photo Upload Standby Deadline
September 9, 2023	August 4	August 18	September 1
October 28, 2023	September 22	October 6	October 20
December 9, 2023	November 3	November 17	December 1
February 10, 2024	January 5	January 19	February 2
April 13, 2024	March 8	March 22	April 5
June 8, 2024	May 3	May 17	May 31
July 13, 2024*	June 7	June 21	July 5

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July test date.



STATE AND DISTRICT TEST DATES | 2023-2024

	Paper Testing Windows		Online Testing Windows	
	Test Window 1	Test Window 2	Test Window 1	Test Window 2
Fall 2023	October 17, 2023	October 31, 2023	October 17–19; October 24–26, 2023	October 31– November 2; November 7–9, 2023
Early Spring 2024	March 12, 2024	March 26, 2024	March 12–15; March 18–22, 2024	March 26–29; April 1–5, 2024
Late Spring 2024	April 9, 2024	April 23, 2024	April 9–12; April 15–19, 2024	April 23–26; April 29–May 3, 2024
Initial Spring 2024	N/A – This window is open to online testing only.		February 27–March 1; March 4–8, 2024	

5 STRATEGIES FOR USING ACT[®] SCORES

How many times do you get asked by a student, “Do I need to take the ACT[®] test?” or “Why should I take the ACT?” They might assume ACT test results are only used for college admission purposes, but they mean so much more. No matter their chosen paths after graduation, students having an ACT score will have a **predictor** of future achievements, **proof** of what they’ve accomplished to date, and **strategic tools** to help open doors toward success. Here are five strategies for using ACT scores that K-12 professionals can implement today.



STRATEGY #1 ACADEMIC ADVISING

451:1 national average student-to-counselor ratio 20/21 school year
source ASCA

Build confidence and gather intel in record time to inform secondary instruction and advisory conversations.

Using ACT scores can help busy counselors serve more students with personalized insights. Students can take the ACT system of assessments as early as grade 8 (with PreACT[®] 8/9) to predict future achievement and grow confidence. In grades 10-12, you can offer them more test practice or start building an ACT[®] **Superscore** — averaging their best scores from each subject from multiple test attempts.

Use this longitudinal insight to inform instruction, meet benchmarks, and advise students on their next steps.

- Measure progress toward your standards achievement plan.
- Measure critical readiness skills to help students who need more targeted instruction or to inform intervention.
- Identify potential gifted and talented, dual enrollment, and advanced students.
- Uncover strengths and interests for holistic course recommendations and selection process.



STRATEGY #2 PROMOTE EQUITY

4 MILLION underserved students have completed at least one college application
source ASCA

Apply to college for free.

Having an ACT score can close opportunity and outcome gaps for students of color, first-generation students, families with economic challenges, and exceptional and diverse learners—setting students up for success in college and careers.

- Ensure equitable opportunities.
- Students eligible for ACT fee waivers receive:
 - free additional score reports, and
 - college application fee waivers.
- A half-million students are expected to participate in the American College Application Campaign's **#WhyApply** effort that expands access to college degrees.



STRATEGY #3 ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

48% of college applicants DID submit test scores in 2022
source Common App

Have a score ready for students to submit.

Just because test-optional institutions don't require applicants to submit scores doesn't mean they won't consider them if submitted. Continue to help students stand out in a sea of college applicants. With test-optional policies at the higher education institutions changing each season, having a score—whether they use it or not—for admission helps students stand out.

- Show readiness for college-level work verified by benchmark performance.
- Highlight STEM achievement (ACT score exclusive).
- Apply for institutional scholarships.



STRATEGY #4 SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN APPLICATIONS

5 Billion dollars is available in private merit-based scholarships
source ASCA

Set them up for financial success.

An ACT score can open doors for students and help them avoid financial burden in the future. If they take the test and score well, students will be eligible for thousands of dollars in scholarships just based on their scores.

- Earn merit scholarships offered by colleges and universities.
- Be eligible for private scholarships.
- Get a “full ride”—some schools offer full-tuition **scholarships** starting in the 22–25 ACT score range, but most full-ride scholarships require a 28 or higher. (Source: college aid pro)



STRATEGY #5 ACCURATE COURSE PLACEMENT

33% of private scholarships are provided to STEM students

Show more accurate achievement for proper course placement.

Many colleges and universities encourage applicants to submit ACT scores for course placement or direct admission into certain majors—even if their general university policy is test optional. ACT results are standards-based and can often be submitted for math, English, and STEM prerequisites, avoiding additional placement testing.

- Inform advanced course placement.
- Use as a required placement test.
- Save freshmen time and money while avoiding course drop and adds.



Learn more about these and other strategies for using ACT scores at the K-12 professionals resources page.

act.org/k12resources

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

ACT is pleased to present this certificate to

for participating in the



THEIR
JOURNEY
MANY
MATHS
PATHS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Astorino".

Charlie Astorino
President—Measurement

Date
3 NBCC clock hours are
awarded for this workshop

500 ACT Dr. | Iowa City, Iowa 52243-0168 | 319.337.1000

ACT[®]

2023

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS WORKSHOP

THEIR JOURNEY. MANY PATHS.

Thank you for attending ACT's 2023 College and Career Readiness Workshop. Please take a moment to complete the ACT College and Career Readiness post-event survey. Your valuable feedback helps us assess our events and inform future planning.

Warm Regards,

The ACT College and Career Readiness Workshop Team

www.act.org/ccrwsurvey

