

ACT[®]

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS GUIDE 2025-2026



WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

Preparing students for postsecondary education and the workforce has always been critical, but truly knowing they're ready can be a challenge. We believe the key lies in supporting students through unique pathways from K-12 to their next life phase. At ACT, our focus is on partnership, collaborating with you to navigate the path to your students' success by:

- Cultivating future-ready students by enhancing their college and career readiness with strategies for long-term success beyond test scores.
- Unlocking every student's full potential through the enhanced ACT® test.
- Equipping every learner with research-supported, ACT-backed practice resources.
- Building a foundation for students' success with the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards.
- Empowering educators with data-driven insights to improve curriculum and instruction.

To support you in these efforts, we're pleased to share the ACT Comprehensive Solutions Guide — an annually updated resource designed to help you connect, communicate, and collaborate with students and their supporters throughout the year. We want to ensure you get the most from our solutions and learn more about new features or enhancements to support your students.

We invite you to explore these resources with a focus on partnership — as we work together to close learning gaps, create equitable opportunities, and help all students thrive. We look forward to discovering how we can help you to help all students on their journeys.

Regards,

Darin Scheer, Vice President, Client Relations

NUMBERS TO NOTE READINESS AT RISK

The ACT national average Composite score for the graduating class of 2024 was 19.4, down slightly from 19.5 for the graduating class of 2023.

Thirty percent of ACT tested graduates in the class of 2024 met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks, and 20% met all four.

Read more.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| About ACT | 4 | Prepare Students for Assessment Success | 23 |
| Overview: ACT Products and Services | 5 | ACT Test Prep and More | 23 |
| ACT® System of Assessments | 6 | Intervening For Success | 24 |
| The Enhanced ACT® Test | 7 | Official ACT Test Prep Products | 25 |
| Discovering Pathways | 8 | Commit to Assess, Certify, and Grow | 26 |
| Trusted Points of Reference | 9 | ACT® WorkKeys® Suite | 26 |
| Measure to Monitor Progress | 10 | Curriculum and Assessment Planner | 29 |
| The ACT® Test | 11 | Empower Students to Achieve Success | 30 |
| Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) | 14 | Mosaic™ by ACT® | 30 |
| MyACT | 14 | Support Readiness Success | 32 |
| Online Reporting | 15 | The American College Application Campaign | 33 |
| Exploring Career Goals | 16 | Fee Waivers — and More for Free | 34 |
| Retesting To Manage Goals | 17 | Discovering Dream Schools and Scholarships | 35 |
| The PreACT® Assessments | 18 | Support College and Career Exploration | 36 |
| Predicting For Goal Setting | 19 | Data Visualization Tools | 37 |
| Train to Guide Student Paths | 20 | National ACT Test Dates | 38 |
| ACT® Instructional Mastery (AIM) | 20 | ACT District Testing Dates | 39 |
| ACT Professional Services | 21 | Holistic Framework | 40 |
| Training to Test and Plan a Path | 22 | Additional Resources | 41 |

ABOUT ACT

ACT is transforming college and career readiness pathways so that everyone can discover and fulfill their potential. Grounded in more than 65 years of research, ACT's learning resources, assessments, research, and work-ready credentials are trusted by students, job seekers, educators, schools, government agencies, and employers in the U.S. and around the world to help people achieve their education and career goals at every stage of life.

At ACT, we are here to help guide students where their dreams lead.

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 holistic understanding and accountability are vital, 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. ACT offers comprehensive solutions designed to meet the needs of the whole person, help educators and students address learning gaps, accelerate learning, and build essential skills to ensure students are on a successful path toward college and career readiness.

MISSION: Helping people achieve education and workplace success.



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 guide.

| | ACT Assessments | ACT Workforce | Mosaic™ by ACT® |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Products and Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACT (including MyACT and Online Reporting) • ACT Test Prep • PreACT® 8/9, PreACT®, PreACT® 9 Secure™, and PreACT® Secure™ • ACT® Instructional Mastery (AIM) • ACT® Professional Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT® WorkKeys® Assessments • ACT® WorkKeys® Curriculum • ACT® WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC®) • ACT® WorkKeys® Profiling • Digital badging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum • Assessments • Screener • Professional development • ELL support |
| 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 PK–12 |
| Format and Type | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper and online assessment and test prep services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper and online assessments and online curriculum system. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blended delivery for curriculum and professional development • Assessment and Screener 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 CASEL-aligned essential 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 Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a certificate of course content mastery and digital badging. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes job fit assessment and job profiling. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes professional learning opportunities. |









*Writing is not available for PreACT assessments.

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 [®] 9 Secure [™] 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 | Aligns to the ACT 1–36 scale with a top score of 30 possible. | Aligns to the ACT 1–36 scale with a top score of 35 possible. | Aligns to the ACT 1–36 scale with a top score of 32 possible for PreACT 9 Secure, and a top score of 35 possible for PreACT Secure | 1–36 scale |
| ELA* Score | No | No | No |  (If the student takes the writing section.) |
| STEM† Score |  |  |  |  (If the student takes the science section.) |
| Career Interest Inventory** |  |  | No |  |

* English Language Arts (ELA) † Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) **Available for online versions of PreACT 8/9 and PreACT in Fall 2025.

How the System Works

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

Common scale. PreACT 8/9 and PreACT 9 Secure 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. PreACT 8/9*, PreACT*, and ACT include 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.

(*Note: PreACT 8/9 and PreACT paper versions offer Interest Inventory. In Fall 2025, both paper and online versions of PreACT 8/9 and PreACT will offer Interest Inventory.)

ACT[®] SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENTS

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

THE ENHANCED ACT

Changes are coming to the ACT National, International, and State and District Testing

The enhanced ACT test is designed with today's students in mind, supporting a streamlined testing experience that is more accessible and actionable. The updated format offers students greater flexibility while preserving the validity and reliability that K-12 leaders rely on for guiding students toward successful pathways in higher education.

Here's a quick comparison of what's changing and what's remaining the same with the enhanced ACT.

What's Changing?

- There are 44 fewer questions overall.
- The test is shorter. Students can receive their college-reportable Composite score after 125 minutes of testing, rather than up to 195 minutes.
- Students have more time per question.
- The number of answer choices in math questions have been reduced from five to four.
- Students can choose to take the ACT National test with or without the science section. State and district customers can choose whether to include science for their students.

What's Not Changing?

- The ACT scale will remain 1-36 with no changes to ACT benchmarks or state-specific achievement standards.
- Scores from tests taken prior to the rollout of the new Composite score will not change.
- Ability to predict success in first-year college credit-bearing courses will not change.
- Both paper-and-pencil and online tests will continue to be available.

The Enhanced ACT Test Timeline

The enhanced ACT will roll out to ACT National, International, and State and District testing administrations according to the following schedule.

APRIL 2025

ACT National Online Only

SEPTEMBER 2025

ACT National Paper & International
(Updated Composite Score For All ACT Tests)

SPRING 2026

State and District Testing

The ACT Composite Score Calculation

As of April 2025, the ACT National (Saturday) online tests transitioned to the new Composite score calculation based on the performance on the English, math, and reading sections. Students can choose to take all five sections previously offered, including science and writing, allowing for a more tailored testing experience. Starting in September 2025, all testing formats — including ACT National (Saturday) Paper, International, and State and District/School Day Testing -- will change to the new Composite score calculation. Beginning in spring 2026, state and district customers can choose whether to offer science and/or writing to their students.

For more information on the changes coming to the ACT Test, visit act.org/actenhancements.

DISCOVERING PATHWAYS

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.

Progress Monitoring

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

As you read this guide, take time to note data, recent research, expert insights, and best practices for progress monitoring using ACT resources. Remember that this is the student's learning journey, but you're the guide, helping the student to stay on track.



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 guide, we will highlight strategies for using ACT scores that K-12 professionals can implement today. They include Academic Advising, Promote Access, 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. Survey results help to support development of common academic standards, inform policymakers and educators, and guide development of ACT assessments.

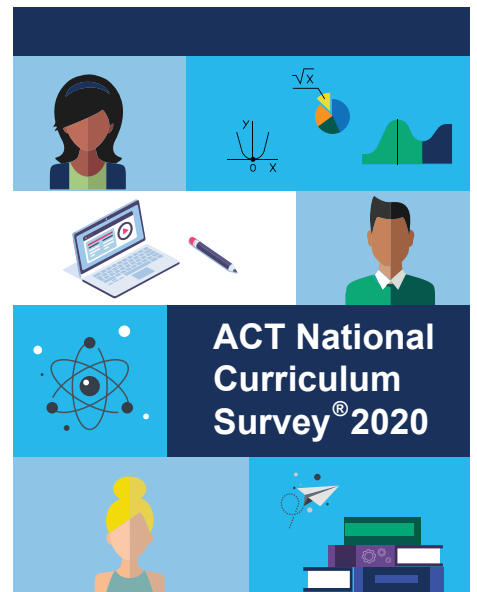
ACT® College and Career Readiness Standards

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.



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 students are on their learning journey requires assessment. You need to establish a baseline for each student and compare it to benchmarks. 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. By utilizing our assessments, you can effectively guide students through crucial decision-making moments in their academic journey 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 in grades 8-9 (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 section 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 questions in English, math, reading, and science. As of April 2025, several **changes** have been added to the ACT test, including the choice to take the science and/or writing sections without affecting 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).



ACT My Answer Key (formerly TIR)*

Request a copy of ACT Test Questions and Answers.

On select National Testing dates, students can request a copy of their questions and answers for up to 6 months, to use as prep for the next ACT test. Students can order through MyACT either during the National test registration process on eligible dates, or as a separate order.

[Learn more](#)

**ACT My Answer Key service is available for National Testing only.*

National Testing

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

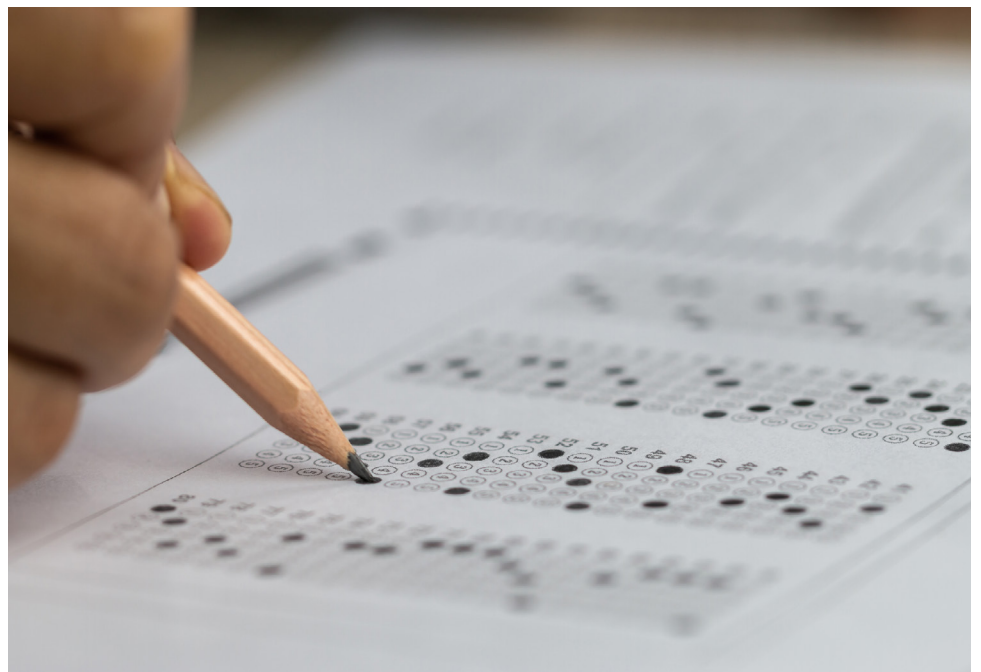
Place: Administered in test centers across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Format Options: Paper-and-pencil and online options are available at select test centers nationwide.

Test Types: The core ACT test consists of the English, mathematics, and reading sections. Students can choose to add science and/or writing for an additional fee.

Pricing (2025–2026): ACT National Test (contains English, mathematics, and reading): \$68

- With the science section: add \$4
- With the writing section: add \$25



ACT District Testing

Time: Multiple fall and spring test date options, selected from those shown on the schedule on the [ACT District Testing website](#).

Place: Administered in their classrooms on a weekday, allowing students the opportunity to take the test during the school week.

Format Options: On paper or online, per school or district decision.

Test Types: For spring 2026, the ACT test or the ACT test with science and/or writing, selected by the district for all testing in the district, or by the schools holding contracts at that level.

Pricing (2025–2026)*: Paper – \$58.00 per student for ACT; \$72.75 per student for ACT with writing; Online – \$54.75 per student for ACT; \$69.50 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). *For questions about pricing in your state, contact your ACT account executive.*

**For spring 2026 testing, districts can choose whether to administer the science section, and there will be no price difference. You will be invoiced at the rates listed above. Visit [act.org/district-testing](#) for details.*

NUMBERS TO NOTE

ACT DISTRICT/ SCHOOL DAY TESTING

Participation in the ACT school-day test administration program continued to grow in the 2023-2024 academic year.

For the 2024 graduating class, 78% of students tested at least once through the program.

Seventeen states tested more than 75% of their 2024 graduates with the ACT.

[Read more.](#)

2025-2026 ACT DISTRICT TESTING

Free and Reduced
Lunch Program
(FRLP) Discount
Pricing

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| TIER 3 75-100% | <div><div>ONLINE \$50.75 \$66.50 with writing</div><div>PAPER AND PENCIL \$54.00 \$69.75 with writing</div></div> |
| TIER 2 50-74% | <div><div>ONLINE \$52.75 \$68.50 with writing</div><div>PAPER AND PENCIL \$56.00 \$71.75 with writing</div></div> |
| TIER 1 0-49% | <div><div>ONLINE \$54.75 \$69.50 with writing</div><div>PAPER AND PENCIL \$58.00 \$72.75 with writing</div></div> |

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 Testing in School

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

For students. Benefits of this approach include:

- 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 of school day testing include:

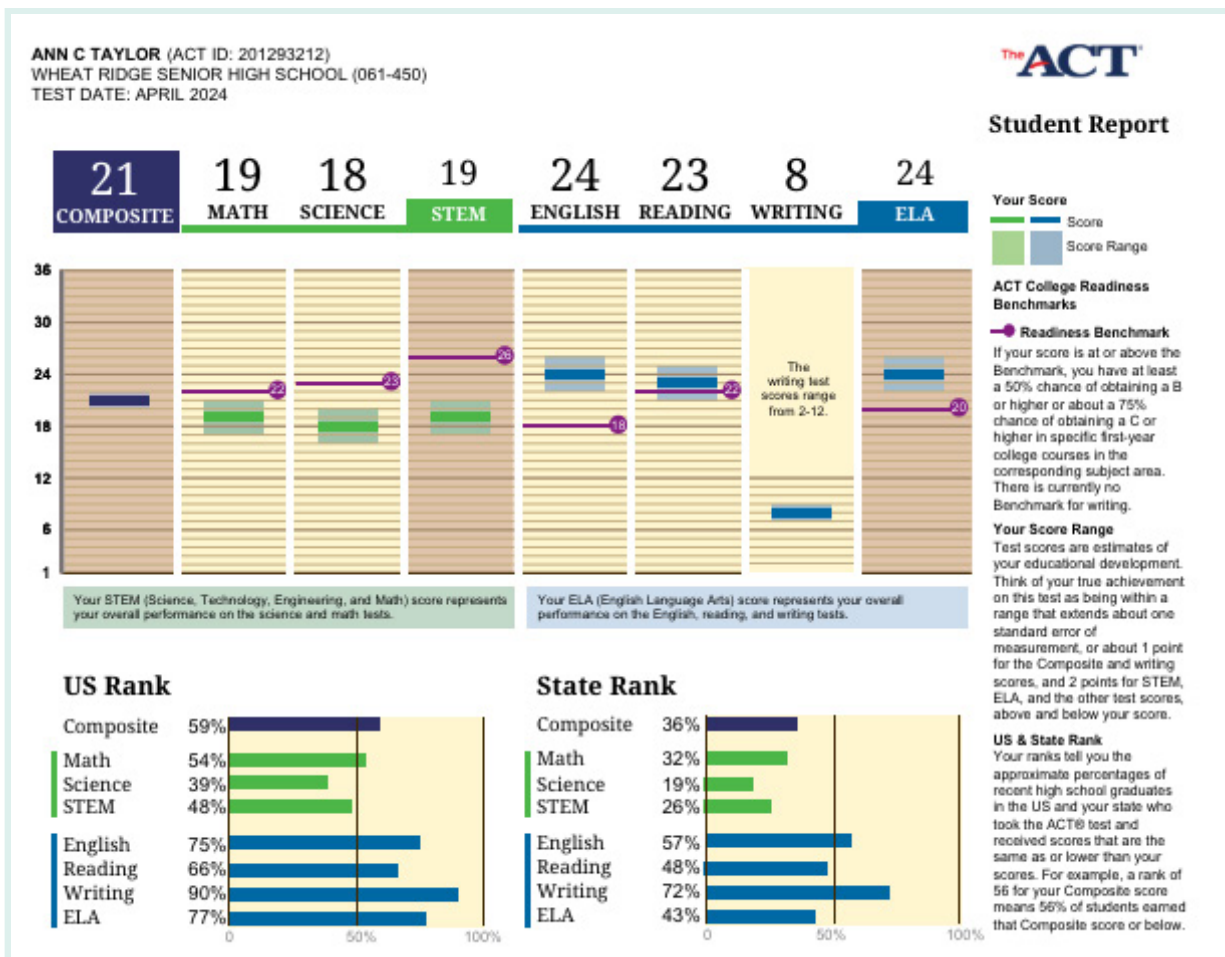
- Provides information on academic achievement and college and career readiness for all students.
- Generates online data to make decisions based on test results.
- Serves as an evidence-based achievement test that can help meet local, state, and federal accountability requirements.

MORE THAN A SCORE

STRATEGY #2: PROMOTE ACCESS FOR ALL

Administering the ACT Test during the school day offers students an ACT score and helps close opportunity and outcome gaps for all learners — setting every student on a path to 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.



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 who are taking the ACT, you can 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. [Learn more.](#)



+50% Time Extension



Bilingual Word-to-Word Dictionary



Directions in 18 Languages

(Note: For PreACT and WorkKeys testing, TAA is not used. A student's local educational team will determine the appropriate accessibility supports and accommodations.)



MyACT

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

- Register for the National ACT test.
- Find National test center locations.
- Request accommodations for a test.
- 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 [ACT Recruit Me \(formerly EOS\)](#) program.

Non-test questions in MyACT. Students 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. 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.



Sign In

Sign In or [Create Account](#)

Email

Password [Forgot password?](#)

[Sign In](#)

Welcome to Success!

The Success community provides ACT customers access to the tools and resources needed to be successful. To view your organization's information, create an account. Accounts will have access to:

Online Reporting: Looking for your school's data, trends, and scores? Sign in here to access your personalized data.

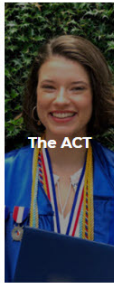
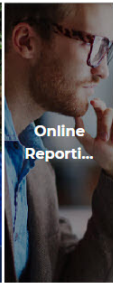
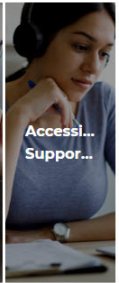
Test Accessibility and Accommodations: Test Accommodation Coordinators will use this system to request student's accommodations or English Learner supports, receive decision notifications, and agree to test previously approved students through Special Testing. **Note- if you are new to Success and have a previous TAA account, please use your TAA email when creating an account.*

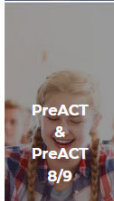

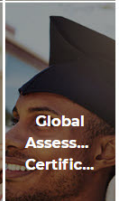
PearsonAccess^{next}: Sign in and access the administration system for the ACT.

Resources

Unsure where to begin? Start by exploring the **Knowledge Hub**, our one-stop resource area for all products and services offered by ACT. Simply select a product on the right or through the dropdown menu on the top (no login needed).

Resources

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

New! Ed-Fi Data Exchange. Along with providing data through the online reporting portal, ACT also offers an API-based solution for transmitting assessment results. This groundbreaking exchange method leverages the Ed-Fi standard to promote speed and data interoperability, making assessment data convenient for educators and stakeholders to access and use. It's never been easier to unlock the power of ACT data. [Learn more](#)

EXPLORING CAREER GOALS

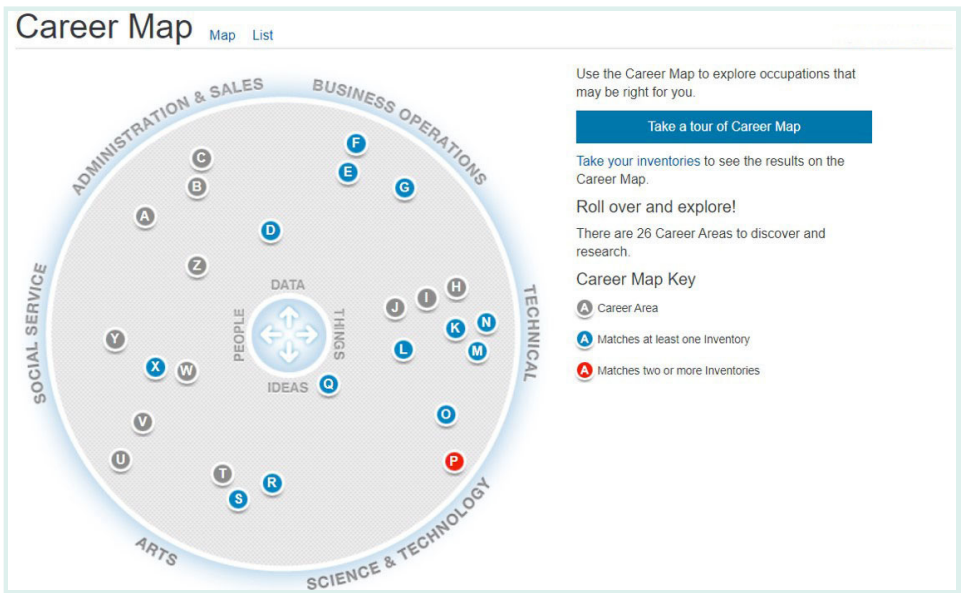
ACT test scores reflect what students have learned throughout high school. Many times, students who aren't considering higher education rethink their plans when they see their ACT test results. This is especially true for underrepresented students. To support college and career planning, the ACT offers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



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 **2024** average ACT Composite score among students who said they completed a core curriculum was **21.9**.
- The average for students who said they completed less than a core curriculum was **19.3**.

[Read more.](#)

RETESTING TO MANAGE GOALS

The ACT test is designed for the high school students (typically in grades 11 and 12) 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 as needed for success. Some results to consider:

- **Greatest opportunity for 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 section 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 each test attempt are used in this calculation, including ACT national, international, and state and district test events.
- In 2025, ACT is changing how the ACT Composite score is calculated. The Composite score included in a student's Superscore is calculated the same way as the Composite score from their most recent test event.
- 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.

[Read more.](#)

For information on superscoring with the enhanced ACT, visit the FAQs section on act.org/actenhancements.

NUMBERS TO NOTE

REAL VALUE OF RETAKES

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

- Among the 35% of 2024 graduates who tested multiple times, students improved their ACT Superscore by an average of 2.4 points, compared to their first test.

[Read more.](#)

THE PreACT® ASSESSMENTS

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

The assessments provide 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.

PreACT® 8/9

PreACT 8/9 offers 8th and 9th graders a tool for placement into high school courses. 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 - May.
- Format options:** Paper and online.
- Test subjects:** English, math, reading, and science.
- Question types:** Multiple-choice only.
- Test security:** Booklets of test takers retained by student/schools.
- Pricing (2025 -2026):** PreACT 8/9 is \$19.50 per student for paper, \$18.50 per student for online.

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 - May.
- Format options:** Paper and online.
- Test subjects:** English, math, reading, science
- Question types:** Multiple-choice only.
- Test security:** Booklets of test takers retained by student/schools.
- Pricing (2025-2026):** PreACT is \$19.50 per student for paper, \$18.50 per student for online.

PreACT® 9 Secure™

PreACT® Secure™

PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure provide 9th and 10th graders the same opportunities and benefits as PreACT, with the following differences in administration:

- Time:** Six-week period during spring.
- 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 and state accountability, and local scholarship application.
- Pricing (2025–2026):** PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure is \$21.00 per student.

TEST OPTIMAL

PreACT Rising Stars Program
This new program (in its pilot year) recognizes top-performing students on PreACT 8/9. The initiative honors academic excellence and equips students with tools to plan their next steps with confidence. [Learn more.](#)

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

The Enhanced ACT and PreACT Assessments.
The PreACT Secure products will be aligned to the enhanced ACT in spring 2026 (including the English, math, and reading Composite score and the choice to offer science). PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure practice tests will have the new “enhanced” versions posted in time for spring 2026 testing. The PreACT 8/9 and PreACT products will align to the enhanced ACT in fall 2026.

Note: PreACT 8/9 and PreACT paper versions offer the Career Interest Inventory. In Fall 2025, both paper and online versions of PreACT 8/9 and PreACT will offer the Career Interest Inventory.

PREDICTING FOR GOAL SETTING

How and when you administer the PreACT assessments 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 WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (WorkKeys NCRC) score that students are likely to obtain with their specific PreACT scores. The WorkKeys NCRC is an assessment-based credential that documents foundational work skills important for job success across industries and occupations ([see page 27](#)).

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

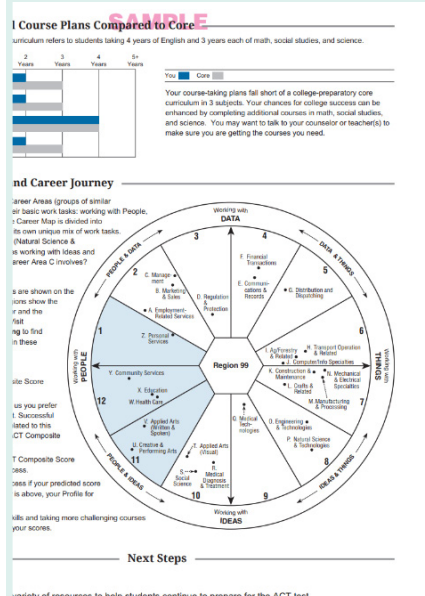
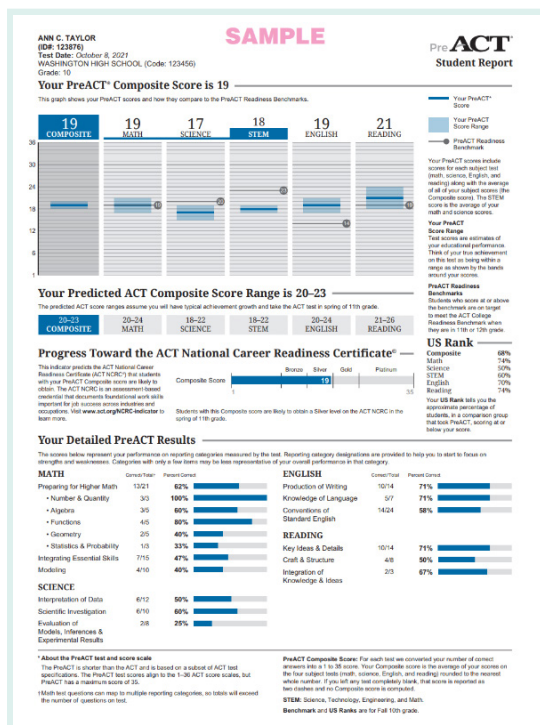
STRATEGY #3: ACCURATE COURSE PLACEMENT

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.



TEST OPTIMAL

PreACT Helps Boost ACT Scores

According to a recent ACT study, PreACT-tested students scored higher on the ACT test and were more likely to be ready for college courses. Read the full research study [here](#).

TRAIN TO GUIDE STUDENT PATHS

Use ACT Professional Services to deepen understanding and strengthen student success.

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 12-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 12-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.



TEST OPTIMAL

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!

Baldwin County Public Schools wanted to equip our students and teachers with the necessary knowledge, skills, and strategies to be successful on the ACT.

We thought it valuable to hear the information directly from the source, the people developing ACT questions and prompts. We offered the ACT Instructional Mastery courses for all subtests, including writing, and found the content, materials, and presenters to be high quality.

We are already reaping the benefits from our investment with our high teacher certification percentage and, we believe, in our increase in student ACT scores and benchmark percentages.

— Scotty Keenan, Secondary Curriculum Supervisor, Baldwin County Public Schools, AL

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 strategic and actionable workshops, providing insight and resources to your school or district ACT needs.

Our highly interactive programs help educators examine their own data and explore strategies they can use in their PLCs, departmental meetings, and classrooms the next day.

Categories. ACT professional learning programs are offered in the following categories:

- **ACT Instructional Mastery:** See previous page.
- **Essential Skills:** A portfolio of workshops is available, intended primarily for schools and districts using Mosaic™ by ACT® products. ([See page 30](#)).
- **The ACT, PreACT, PreACT Secure Assessment Data:** Nobody can help educators use ACT data better than ACT. Let us help you access your data, to find the value it can provide in informing the work you are doing now and the work that comes next in your efforts to improve your students' and your school's growth on ACT assessments.
- **ACT WorkKeys and WorkKeys Curriculum:** Workshops in this category focus on preparing your students to take ACT WorkKeys Assessments such as the ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), as well as working with your school's WorkKeys Assessment data and in using the ACT WorkKeys Curriculum for both the individual student and with school level implementation.
- **ACT Curriculum Alignment and ACT Content Workshops for Busy Teachers:** We can help educators better understand the ACT test, examine the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), and plan for improved student preparation and success on the ACT. Our widely popular Anchoring Your Curriculum workshop provides a deep dive into ACT academic standards; and our ACT Content Workshops assist academic departments in determining how to enhance ACT preparation. The ACT Data, WorkKeys, Anchoring Your Curriculum, and ACT Content Workshops are designed to fit into your school's professional development schedule.



TRAINING TO TEST AND PLAN A PATH

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 resource 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 setup.
- 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?

Visit our website for more information about administering ACT District Testing (school day testing) in your school or district.

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.

PREPARE STUDENTS FOR ASSESSMENT SUCCESS

Provide aligned test prep to support effective test practice.

ACT[®] Online Prep
Powered by **MasteryPrep**

ACT TEST PREP

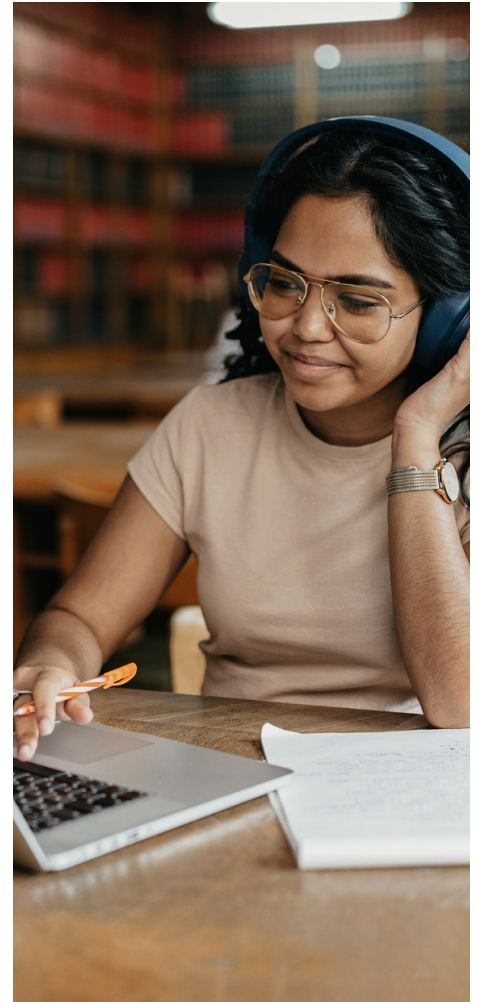
*Taking the ACT test is a major step along a student's college and career journey, but preparation for the ACT begins with quality core instruction. You can help students amplify their learning of core content and skills with **official ACT test prep** and select the best options for them, to make sure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

ACT[®] Online Prep, Powered by MasteryPrep

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

Approach. The AOP platform supports three flexible instructional models that can be used in parallel. Educators can incorporate the program into core classroom teaching, direct students to study independently, or facilitate an ACT prep course.

- 1. Supplemental Curriculum to Core Classroom Teaching: Content Research, Pre-Teach, and Mastery Practice.**
Use for bell-ringers, pre-teaching, or reinforcement lessons. Teachers can effortlessly incorporate ACT-aligned content into whole-group, small-group, or individualized instruction. Regular short lessons or assessments can serve as bell-ringer activities, scaffolding, or additional practice toward mastery of ACT-tested skills.
- 2. Student Self-Directed Learning (Adaptive Pathing): Content Reinforcement, Test Familiarization, and Testing Strategies.**
Students can independently follow personalized, adaptive learning paths designed to efficiently target their individual strengths and weaknesses. The adaptive, video-based course allows motivated learners to develop content mastery, gain test familiarity, and practice effective test-taking strategies at their own pace.



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.

3. Teacher-Facilitated Instruction: Content Development, Test Preparation, and Strategy Development:

The extensive AOP content and accompanying AOP Educator Guide gives an ACT prep class facilitator everything they need to guide students through the content in a data-driven fashion. Reports show how students are growing and reveal the areas where students might need more time.

Content. The AOP program offers an engaging, personalized, video-based course featuring 8 to 12 hours of instruction per subject area. In addition, students have access to extensive ACT-aligned practice resources, including practice tests, diagnostic assessments, and skill-specific practice sets. Educators can choose between fully adaptive courses, targeting individual student needs, or structured, teacher-guided plans. Individual and aggregate student progress is tracked seamlessly, ensuring educators always know exactly how their students are progressing and where targeted intervention might be required.

INTERVENING FOR SUCCESS

For high school students impacted by disrupted learning or who have learning gaps, the AOP provides fast and accurate assessment of areas where they need interventions, based on the ACT Reporting Categories.

Reporting data. The AOP platform includes robust reporting capabilities that provide educators and administrators with comprehensive insights into student performance. Multiple intuitive reports deliver real-time data on:

- Individual and group performance on practice questions and assessments.
- Skill-level mastery and areas needing remediation.
- Progress tracking over time.
- Aggregate classroom and school-wide performance summaries.
- Detailed analytics to inform differentiated instruction.

These advanced reporting tools equip instructors and school test coordinators with critical insights, enabling proactive interventions and ensuring every student receives the college readiness support they need.

Anytime administration. Students can access any AOP online course on any major browser, on any device, with no downloads required.

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.

TEST OPTIMAL

Free Test Prep Visit our website for free test prep tools including:

- An online practice test available in MyACT.
- **Preparing for the ACT Test**, a resource with helpful hints and test-taking strategies, as well as one complete practice ACT test.
- **QuizMe**, a fun, interactive, game-like format with real ACT test questions!

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

What's New in ACT® Online Prep, Powered by MasteryPrep?

- Adaptive video courses for each subject area.
- Upgraded reporting suite.
- 100% updated and aligned to the enhanced ACT.

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-Paced 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.

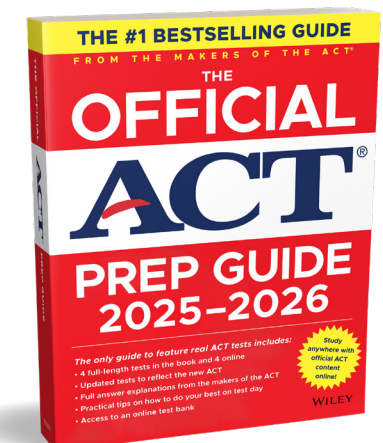
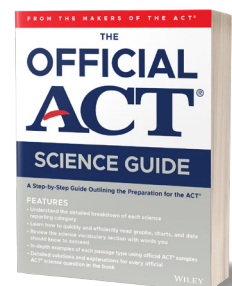
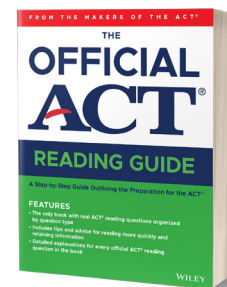
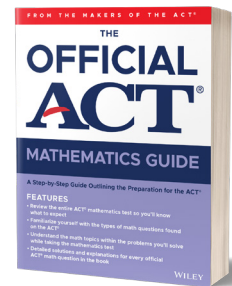
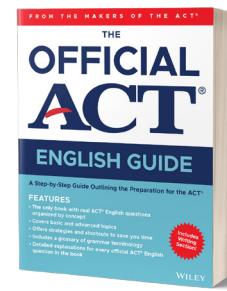
Format: Virtual Classroom.

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 do 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.



COMMIT TO ASSESS, CERTIFY, AND GROW

Help create a thriving workforce ecosystem that fosters economic growth.

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 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 foundational workplace skills. These skills can affect an individual's job performance and increase their opportunities for career changes and advancement.

ACT® WorkKeys® Assessments

The **WorkKeys Assessments** measure foundational and essential workplace skills that can lead to greater job satisfaction. All tests are web-based and most are available on paper 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.

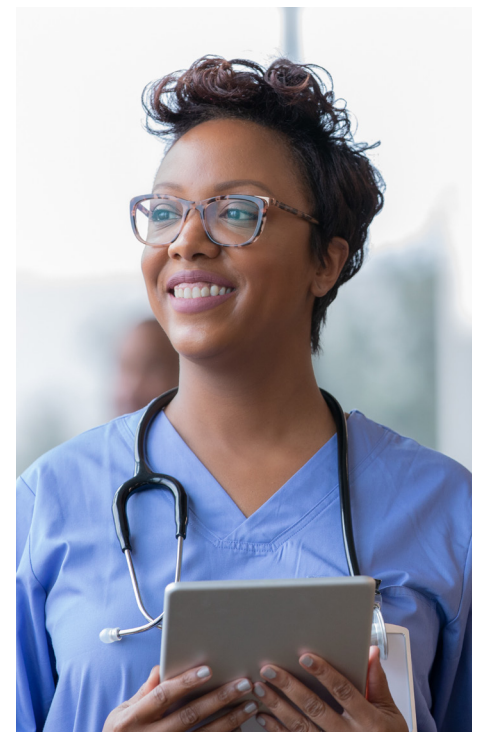
ACT® **WorkKeys**®

ACT® **WorkKeys**®
Assessments

ACT® **WorkKeys**®
Curriculum

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



- **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.
- **Essential Skills:** Measures six essential skills — creativity, work ethic, collaboration, resilience, leadership and integrity — to provide a holistic picture of employees' strengths and areas for improvement.

ACT® WorkKeys® 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 score reports are available in the reporting systems. Reports for the WorkKeys NCRC assessments have both level and scale scores, which indicate that a student can perform more complex skills

- **Level scores:** 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:** 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.



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. (Note: ACT plans to transition examinee data to a newer system throughout the remainder of 2025.)

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.**

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

NCRC digital badges. Since 2022, students who earn the NCRC can highlight their foundational and 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.

ACT® WorkKeys® Curriculum

The **ACT WorkKeys Curriculum** helps individuals build the foundational and 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. It's the only curriculum built to align with NCRC assessments.

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

Supportive platform. The easy-to-implement courses within the 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 students 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.

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 test/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.**

CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT PLANNER

The **Curriculum and Assessment Planner** helps you organize all of your student assessment options into one cohesive tool. It enables you to create a detailed curriculum and assessment plan that tracks student progress from elementary school through to their career, providing a data-driven approach to support and enhance holistic student learning.

The output is a clear, visual representation of your current assessments across grade levels and ACT Holistic Framework domains ([see page 40](#)). To simplify the process, the planner also offers recommended solutions to help complete your comprehensive assessment plan.

This tool is invaluable for your district's or school's strategic planning efforts. It's also a key resource for building principals when guiding the development of school improvement plans.

ACT® SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENTS

The Curriculum and Assessment Planner is fully aligned with the ACT System of Assessments. You can use it with confidence, knowing that the knowledge and skills are consistent across all ACT products, including the ACT and PreACT Assessments, Test Prep products, as well as WorkKeys Assessment and Curriculum resources.



EMPOWER STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

Help students succeed by teaching them empowering essential skills.



The ACT mission is “Helping people achieve education and workplace success.” Decades of research have shown that essential skills, are crucial to helping people achieve education and workplace success. At ACT, essential skills are mission critical, and we have spent valuable time and resources developing research-based curricula and assessments designed to help learners develop these skills.

MOSAIC™ BY ACT®

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

- **Assessment:** Mosaic Assessments are part of a comprehensive system designed to measure five essential 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 are offered for grades 3-12, take approximately 20 minutes to complete, and can be given twice per year per student. Feedback is provided in dynamic, interactive, online dashboards that can be filtered and shared at multiple school/district levels. Mosaic also offers a teacher observational PDF checklist for grades PK-2 at no additional cost.
- **Screeners:** Based on the growing need for quick and frequent pulse checks on essential skills, Mosaic offers a Screener for grades 3-12. It measures the same 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 essential skills curriculum addresses the unique needs of students from PK-12, including specialized programming for English learners. Student assignments are included at the end of each lesson to measure student understanding and progress.

NUMBERS TO NOTE

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND ACT TEST SCORES

A recent study by ACT researchers examined the relationship between essential skills and ACT test scores. The results showed that students who scored higher on essential 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.

- **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 professional development.

Evidence-based and aligned resources. For the past 18 years, ACT has been supporting students and educators with evidence-based essential skills resources:

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

Flexibility. Mosaic by ACT 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.

Focus on success for all learners. ACT believes every student deserves the opportunity to achieve academic and workplace success. Our 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, including summary-level and detailed reports that provide information about students’ essential skills as well as insight regarding the school and district climate. The reports can also be used as a tool for measuring growth and facilitating conversations with a student, parent, or educator about essential skills.

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

Dashboard and user support.

Mosaic by ACT dashboard features:

- Measure college and career readiness using the high school assessment Mosaic Readiness Index.
- Interventions Tab provides teachers with a vetted repository of resources to improve students’ essential 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.

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 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.**

SUPPORT READINESS SUCCESS

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



The **ACT Center for Impact and Learning** team works to provide a variety of learning opportunities for students, parents, and educators across the country. This [page](#) includes upcoming events, links to past events, and speaking engagements where you can learn more about ACT's learner-first commitment.

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 support for 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 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 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

ACT FEE WAIVER PROGRAM

ACT recognizes that college preparation and success take time and resources that are not equitably distributed to all students whose families face economic challenges.

- Fee waivers helped 264,000+ in FY24.
- 146,000+ students utilized free test prep materials.

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. College graduates are more likely to be employed, vote, and be leaders in their communities.

2024 NATIONAL RESULTS



5,854

HOST SITES



477,712

PARTICIPATING
STUDENTS



1,316,688

SUBMITTED
APPLICATIONS



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.

Assisting with applications. The college application process can be confusing and daunting for students. ACAC events help high school seniors, including those who are the first in their families to attend college or are from low-income families, submit 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.

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 provide access for all learners include:

- Fee waivers for the ACT test.
- Free score reports.
- Free test prep.
- Free ACT My Answer Key (formerly TIR) (see page 11).

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 10 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.

DISCOVERING DREAM SCHOOLS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Empower Students to Make Confident College and Scholarship Choices

ACT Recruit Me (formerly Educational Opportunity Services, or EOS) helps students choose the right college and enhances their scholarship opportunities by sending personalized information about their college options and financial aid directly to their inbox.

It's free and available in MyACT when students register for the ACT test. ACT Recruit Me helps students:

Get Matched with Colleges: Colleges use a student's majors, career goals, and MyACT profile to connect and highlight programs and opportunities tailored to their interests. Colleges can also help students identify areas to strengthen for success.

Connect to Real Scholarship Opportunities: Scholarship organizations can contact students based on their qualifications and interests, helping students discover ways to fund their education.

Simplify the Admissions Process: Once a student's ACT College Report is available, colleges can start building a customized admission record, creating a faster, more personalized admissions process.

For more information, visit www.act.org/actrecruitme.



SUPPORT COLLEGE AND CAREER EXPLORATION

Encourage® is a college and career planning program that empowers over 20,000 educators annually with resources to help their students envision, plan for, and realize success after high school.

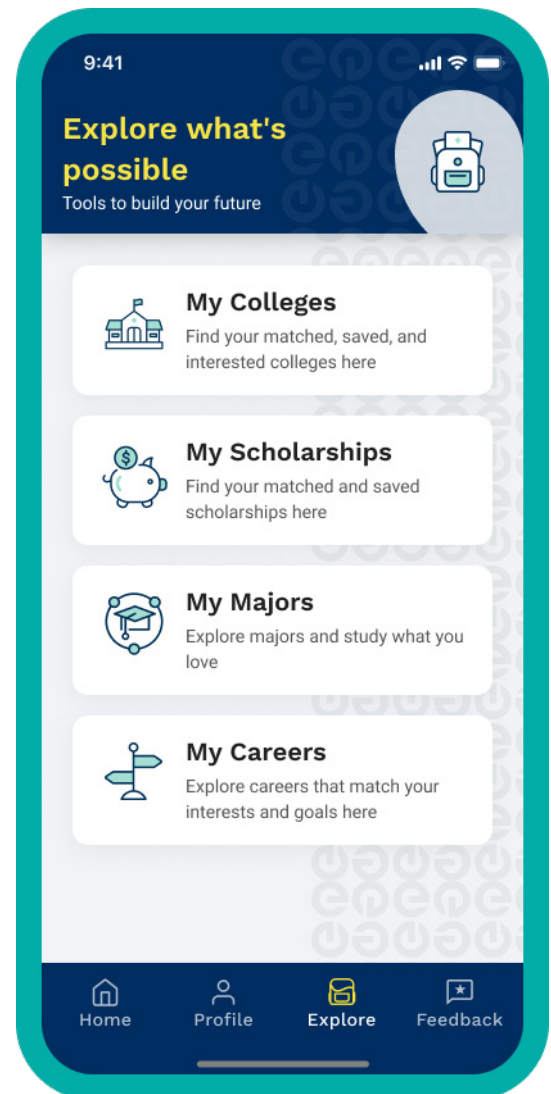
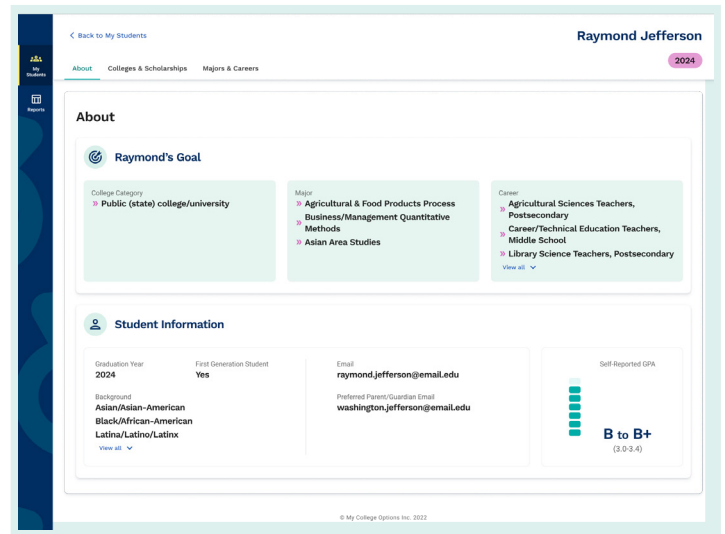
Personalized college matches and step-by-step guidance for students.

- Match with 100 colleges and scholarships based on preferences for life after high school to start the exploration process.
- Receive bite-sized tasks based on their graduation year and get monthly encouragement from our newsletters.
- Opt-in to be contacted by our network of 2,000 partnering colleges, universities, and scholarship organizations, helping to make college more accessible.

Data and resources to guide college and career exploration for educators.

- Straightforward reports to see students' college and career plans as well as school, state, and national trends to plan support and guide conversations.
- Ready-made resources, including lesson plans, a family guide, and newsletters to support the important work throughout the school year.

Visit encourageme.com/educators to see a 5-minute demo of the Encourage program!



UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

ACT Scores. Student ACT Scores are automatically added to their Encourage profile.

DATA VISUALIZATION TOOLS

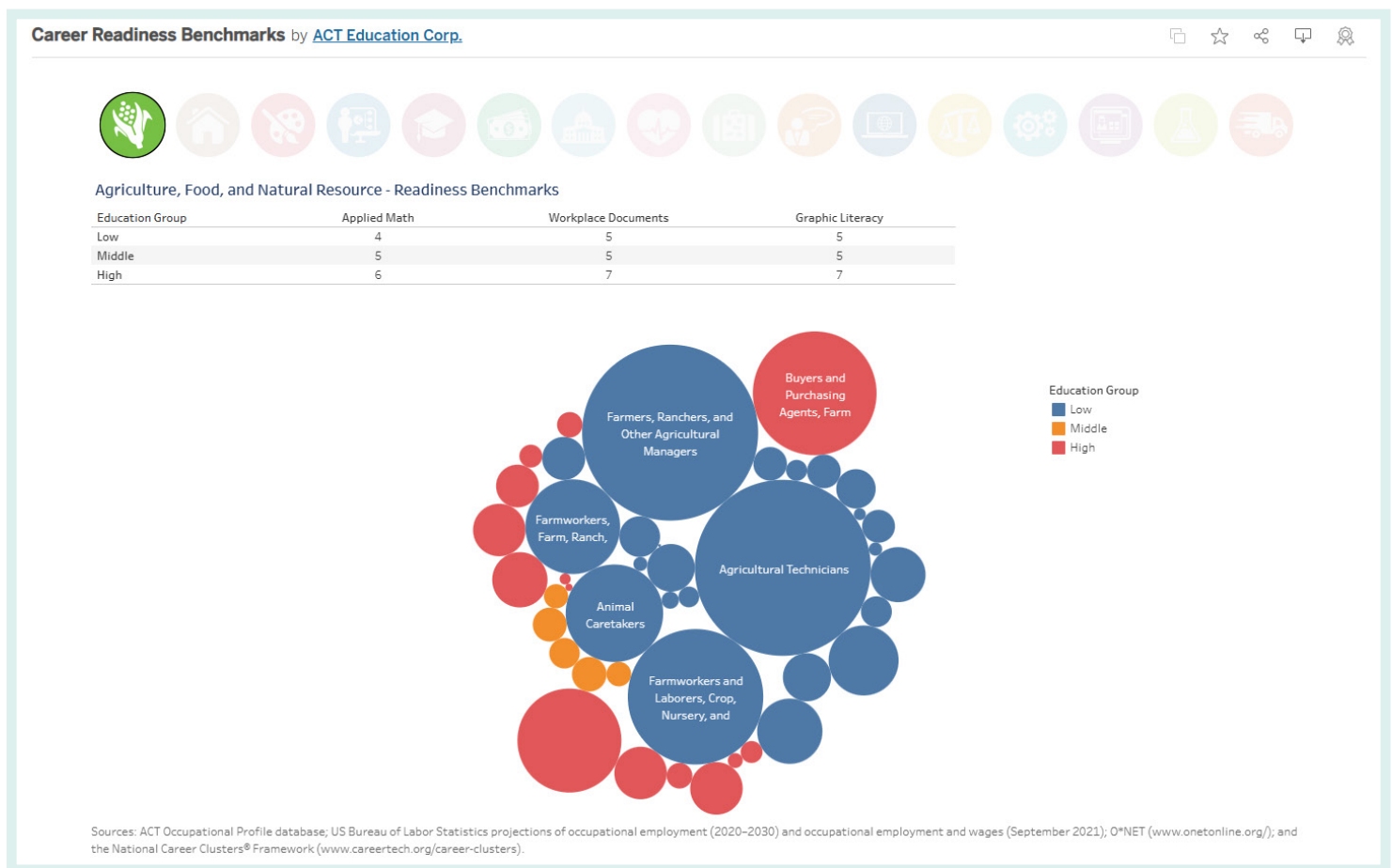
ACT provides interactive data visualization tools intended to answer questions and provide meaningful insights to those involved in improving education and career outcomes. These are designed to help students, parents, educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders make informed decisions.

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.



NATIONAL ACT TEST DATES 2025-26

United States, US Territories, and Puerto Rico

| TEST DATES | REGISTRATION DEADLINES | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Regular Deadline | Late Registration Deadline | Photo Upload Standby Deadline |
| Sep. 6, 2025 | Aug. 1, 2025 | Aug. 19, 2025 | Aug. 29, 2025 |
| Oct. 18, 2025 | Sep. 12, 2025 | Sep. 30, 2025 | Oct. 10, 2025 |
| Dec. 13, 2025 | Nov. 7, 2025 | Nov. 24, 2025 | Dec. 5, 2025 |
| Feb. 14, 2026 | Jan. 7, 2026 | Jan. 21, 2026 | Feb. 6, 2026 |
| Apr. 11, 2026 | Mar. 6, 2026 | Mar. 24, 2026 | Apr. 3, 2026 |
| Jun. 13, 2026 | May 8, 2026 | May 27, 2026 | Jun. 5, 2026 |
| Jul. 11, 2026* | Jun. 5, 2026 | Jun. 24, 2026 | Jul. 3, 2026 |

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

September: Science section choice (online and paper testing).

ACT My Answer Key (formerly Test Information Release) for the 2025-2026 testing year will occur in October 2025, April 2026, and June 2026. Visit act.org/actmyanswerkey for details.

ACT DISTRICT TESTING DATES 2025-26*

| | Paper Testing Events** | | Online Testing Events | |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| | Test Event 1 | Test Event 2 | Test Event 1 | Test Event 2 |
| Fall 2025 | Oct. 14, 2025 | Oct. 28, 2025 | Oct. 14-17, 2025 Oct. 20-24, 2025 | Oct. 28-31, 2025 Nov. 3-7, 2025 |
| Initial Spring 2026 | N/A - This event is open to online testing only. | | Feb. 24-27, 2026 Mar. 2-6, 2026 | |
| Early Spring 2026 | Mar. 10, 2026 | Mar. 24, 2026 | Mar. 10-13, 2026 Mar. 16-20, 2026 | Mar. 24-27, 2026 Mar. 30-Apr. 3, 2026 |
| Late Spring 2026 | Apr. 7, 2026 | Apr. 21, 2026 | Apr. 7-10, 2026 Apr. 13-17, 2026 | Apr. 21-24, 2026 Apr. 27 - May 1, 2026 |

*To see the latest on ACT District Testing enrollment and what's new for the 2025-2026 school year, visit act.org/district-testing.

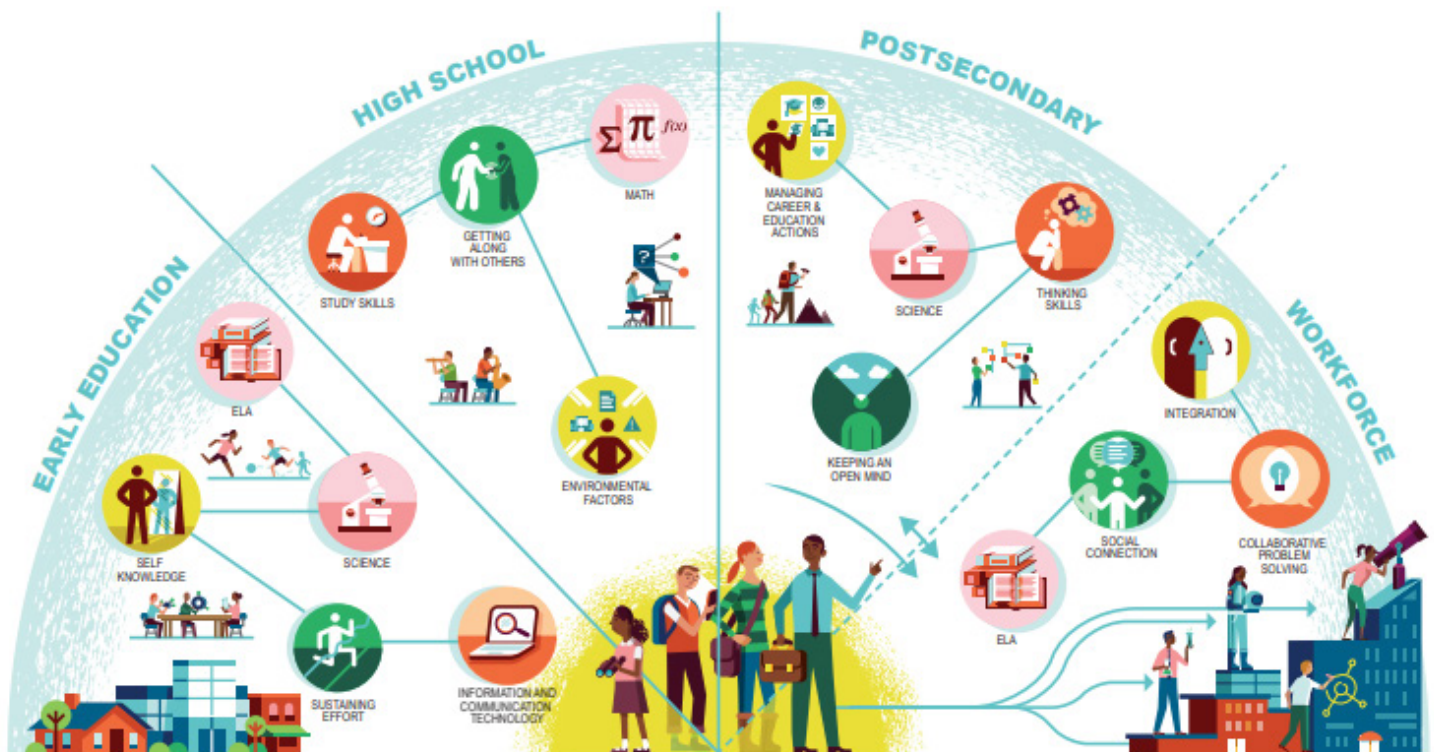
**Standard Administration (Connect with us for information on accommodation test event dates.)

ACT HOLISTIC FRAMEWORK

Addressing the Skills Gap for the Future

The world of work is evolving--and so are the definitions of college and career readiness. **ACT's Holistic Framework** reflects that shift, providing a clear and comprehensive structure that redefines readiness for today's world. With an emphasis on real-world relevance, this framework ensures all learners are equipped not just with academic knowledge, but with the full range of skills needed to thrive in work and life.

Designed for counselors, learners, administrators, workforce professionals, employers, and other key stakeholders, the Holistic Framework organizes the elements of readiness into four equally important categories: Core Academic Skills, Cross-Cutting Capabilities, Behavioral Skills, and Education & Career Navigation. Together, these areas highlight how learners acquire, apply, and grow the skills needed to chart meaningful education and career pathways.



The holistic model of education and work success

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS English Language Arts Mathematics Science | CROSS-CUTTING CAPABILITIES Information and Communication Technology Collaborative Problem Solving Thinking Skills Learning Skills | BEHAVIORAL SKILLS Acting Honestly Getting Along with Others Keeping an Open Mind Maintaining Composure Social Connection Sustaining Effort | EDUCATION & CAREER NAVIGATION Self-Knowledge Environmental Factors Integration Managing Career & Education Actions |
|--|--|---|---|

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Explore these additional resources to help you connect with students and parents.

Accessibility & Accommodations

ACT District Testing Communications Toolkit

ACT My Journey

ACT Navigator

ACT WorkKeys Communications Toolkit

College and Career Readiness Day Toolkit

Counselor Blog

English Language Learner (ELL) Toolkit

K-12 Counselor Toolkit

PreACT Communications Toolkit

PreACT Rising Stars Communications Guide

Student Blog

Student Recognition Kit

QuizMe

Contact Us

To contact ACT about our products and services, visit <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/contact-act.html>

