Allowable ACT Accommodations and English Learner (EL) Supports

The information below is intended to assist students, families, and school staff in planning to take the ACT test with accommodations or EL supports. Students must register to take the ACT test and work with a school official to submit a request for accommodations or EL supports via the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) by the registration deadline for their preferred test date. If a student needs an accommodation not listed below, they should work with their school official to request the accommodations in TAA and ACT will consider the request on an individualized basis.

Students testing with approved accommodations or EL supports will test at a national test center or through Special testing (at their home school during a designated two-week window). The specific accommodations or EL supports needed to access the test and approved by ACT determine the location. The lists below describe what allowable accommodations are available via National or Special testing.

Please see the document National vs. Special (pdf) for high level differences between National and Special testing. This document provides additional details.

National Testing - Standard Room
Accommodations/EL supports listed below can be provided during a national test day in a standard room with examinees testing without accommodations or EL supports.

- Large-print testing materials (18 pt.)
- Mark answers in the test booklet
- Food, drink, or medication while testing
- Medical device (e.g., insulin pump, heart monitor) if no cell phone or watch monitors condition
- Preferential seating
- Written copy of verbal instructions
- Wheelchair-accessible room
- Sign language interpreter to sign verbal instructions (not test items)
- Printed copy of verbal instructions
- Translated test directions provided by ACT
- Bilingual word-to-word dictionary (ACT-authorized)
- FM system
- Colored overlay
- 3x5 card or ruler for tracking
- Magnifier
- Highlighter
- Accessible calculator (nonstandard)
- Answer masking (3x5 card)
- Answer eliminator (crossing out multiple choice answers)
- Notification of time remaining (alternative to verbal notification)
- Service animal
National Testing - Extended Time Room
All accommodations/EL supports allowed in a standard room during a national test day can be provided in an extended time room if the examinee is also approved for one and one-half extended time.

- One and one-half time
- Small group testing

National Testing - Single Room
All accommodations/EL supports allowed in a standard room during a national test day can be provided in a single room, where the examinee tests individually, if the examinee is also approved for any of the following:

- Breaks as needed
- Medical device (e.g., insulin pump, heart monitor) if using cell phone or watch monitors
- Ear plugs or noise canceling headphones
- Read testing items out loud to self
- Fidget devices
- Stand/walk/pace

Special Testing – Test date/time arranged with school
All accommodations available in National testing can be provided through Special testing if the examinee is also approved for any of the following:

Timing
- One and one-half time multiple days
- Double time multiple days
- Triple time multiple days
- Standard time multiple days
- Double time on the writing test only (only applicable if the examinee registered for the ACT with writing)
- Time of day

Presentation
- Alternate test formats (e.g., human reader, pre-recorded audio, braille, tactile graphics) (Human reader needs single room)
- Test instructions repeated/clarified (single room)
- Signing entire test (single room)
- Personal aide, page turner, help pressing calculator buttons, materials positioning (single room)
- Screen reader (JAWS or NVDA)
- CCTVs

Response
- Scribe (single room)
- Computer for the writing test (only applicable if the examinee registered for the ACT with writing)
- Speech-to-text software (single room)
- Scratch paper (lined, graph, or plain)
- Franklin Speller
- Geoboard, iPad or other assistive technology
- Colored pencils or ink pen for essay
- Abacus
- Augmentative or Alternative Communication Devices (AAC)
- Braille note taker, braille writer
- Responding in an alternate method (e.g., pointing, eye gaze, etc.)

Setting
- Background music, must be through speakers and not headphones (single room)
- Home/hospital testing
- Environmental adaptations (special lighting, air conditioning, slant board, adaptive furniture)
- Verbal cues to stay on task (single room)
- Countdown timer