



# PreACT Online or Paper-Pencil Assessments: You Choose

PreACT® 8/9 and PreACT® offer online administrations and are aligning to enhancements to the ACT test.  
**Find out what's right for you.**

ACT has offered the choice of online or paper-pencil formats for ACT School Day and District Testing programs to high school juniors and seniors since 2015.

We understand the value of aligning familiar testing experiences to younger students and extending the choice of administration methods to educators.

## Why Consider Online Testing?

### Familiarity for Students



- PreACT online administration gives students a streamlined experience on the same platform as the computer-based ACT test used by ACT State and District Testing.
- 50% of schools who offer ACT school day testing choose the online administration. We see a trend of more schools choosing online each year.

### Ease of Implementation for Educators



- PreACT online saves time by removing orders and returns of paper materials – reducing reliance on shipping, handling, and storage.
- For record keeping - an electronic copy of the answer booklet will be provided which is a more sustainable and shareable record of achievement.
- For administration – we are aligning paper-pencil and online testing in a single administrative platform so educators can easily decide which mode is right for each student.

# Online vs Paper-Pencil Comparison

Use the comparison below to assess your PreACT needs and make a plan for next year.

	PreACT 8/9 & PreACT Online	PreACT 8/9 & PreACT Paper-Pencil
Enrolling for 2025-26	Enrollment opens in April 2025 with a single form for all PreACT Assessments	Enrollment opens in April 2025 with a single form for all PreACT Assessments
Administration Platforms	ACT Now and Test Center Manager (TCM)	ACT Now and Test Center Manager (TCM)
Test Timing (Legacy Blueprint)	130 min PreACT 8/9 130 min PreACT	130 min PreACT 8/9 130 min PreACT
Test Timing (New Blueprint) <i>PreACT is aligning with the ACT Enhancements by introducing new blueprints and composite scores.</i>	<b>Happening Fall 2026</b> 155 min PreACT 8/9 160 min PreACT	<b>Happening Fall 2026</b> 155 min PreACT 8/9 160 min PreACT
Interest Inventory	Coming soon to MyACT	Available in PreACT and PreACT 8/9 (optional for students to complete)
Reports	Online in ACT Online Reporting +2 printed individual student reports (ISR) sent to the school	Online in ACT Online Reporting +2 printed individual student reports (ISR) sent to the school
ACT Recruit Me Opt In	Yes	Yes
Test Booklets Retained	Yes	Yes - hard copy
Testing Window	Sept. 2, 2025 - May 29, 2026	Sept. 2, 2025 - May 29, 2026

\*Dates and testing modality may vary depending on your state-supported contract.

## Will PreACT Assessments Be Updated to Reflect the ACT Enhancements?

New PreACT blueprints will align with the enhanced ACT. We will roll out the new blueprints in spring 2026 (along with the change to the new Composite score) for PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure when the State and District Testing ACT changes roll out. The PreACT 8/9 and PreACT changes start in fall 2026.

Science remains as part of the PreACT test battery for all customers until new blueprints are rolled out for each specific product. Then, if schools or districts (not under a state contract) wish to take PreACT with or without science to mimic what they are offering for the ACT, students won't complete the science section. It won't affect scores, since Composite scores will be calculated based on English, math and reading only. Students won't get a science or STEM score, and it will show up as " - - " on score reports.

Connect with our experts to make a plan for PreACT Assessments at [act.org/preact](https://act.org/preact).

