ACT®

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS GUIDE

WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

Getting students ready for postsecondary education and the workforce has always been critical, but the certainty of students' readiness is often difficult to measure. The key is supporting students along their journey, through many pathways, as they successfully move from K-12 to their next phase in life. Our goal is to help you navigate the route for your students' success by:

- Understanding how a holistic approach to education leads to better outcomes.
- Monitoring student growth with connected assessments that ensure college and career readiness.
- Improving curriculum using rich data to identify student needs.
- Learning and applying best practices for test prep.
- Helping students plan for the future and guiding their postsecondary success.
- Supporting students in building essential skills for success in life, college, and career.

This year, we're pleased to offer you access to the ACT Comprehensive Solutions Guide. This is an annually published resource with tools and solutions you can use all year, including ways to connect and communicate with students and their supporters on how to navigate their readiness journeys. We want to ensure you get the most from our solutions and learn more about new features or enhancements to support your students.

I hope you gain new perspectives on our solutions and consider partnering with us as you address equitable learning paths, overcome learning gaps, and help students successfully move from K–12 to their next phase in life. We look forward to discovering how we can help you to help all students on their journeys.

Regards,

Blake Curwen, Vice President, Client Relations

NUMBERS TO NOTE
READINESS AT RISK

The ACT national average Composite score for the graduating class of 2023 was 19.5, down from 19.8 for the graduating class of 2022.

Thirty-one percent of ACT tested graduates in the class of 2023 met at least three out of four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks and 21% met all four ACT College Readiness. **Read more**.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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, our belief is, Their Journey, Many Paths and we are here to help guide students where their dreams lead.

Educational boundaries are changing, blurring the line between learning and assessment.

MISSION:
Helping people achieve education and workplace success.

In a world in which learning is personalized by continuous measurement within learning systems, and a time when social and emotional understanding and accountability are active forces, ACT holds an important role.

Together we can work to identify areas of need and align solutions to ensure your efforts during the school year and long into the future are focused on growth and healing. ACT offers comprehensive solutions designed to meet the needs of the whole child, help educators and students address learning loss, accelerate learning, and enhance social emotional learning skills to ensure students are on a successful path towards college and career readiness.

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	Mosiac™ by ACT® Social Emotional Learning
Products and Services	• The ACT (including MyACT and Online Reporting) • ACT Test Prep • PreACT Secure®, PreACT®, and PreACT® 8/9 • ACT® Instructional Mastery (AIM) • ACT® Professional Service	• ACT® WorkKeys® Assessments • ACT® WorkKeys® Curriculum • ACT® WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate™ (NCRC®) • ACT® WorkKeys® Profiling • Digital badging	• SEL Curriculum • ELL SEL Assessments • SEL Screener • SEL Professional Development
Suggested Student Level	• Grades 8–12	• Grades 9–12 and postsecondary	• Grades PK–12
Format and Type	• Paper and online assessment and test prep series	• Paper and online assessment and curriculum system	• Blended delivery for curriculum and professional development • Assessment and Screener online only
Subject Areas	• Builds and measures college and career readiness in English, math, reading, science, and writing individually and as a composite*	• Builds, profiles, and measures essential workplace skills applicable across various jobs and occupations	• Builds and measures CASEL-aligned social and emotional skills
Resources Focus	• Provides results and reporting to help guide college and career readiness and postsecondary planning as well as program evaluation	• Offers workforce readiness support and a nationally recognized credential	• Delivers instruction, intervention, and mastery resources
Professional Level	• Includes a certificate of course content mastery and learning opportunities	• Includes job fit assessment and job profiling	• 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.

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

* English Language Arts (ELA)   † Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)   **Not available for online versions of PreACT 8/9 or PreACT.

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

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

Interest Inventory. 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 careerrelevant motivations. *(*Note: PreACT 8/9 and PreACT paper versions 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, scalescore ranges and meaning, and stakeholder benefits.

THEIR JOURNEY. MANY PATHS.

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

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 Equity, Admissions Decisions, Scholarship and Loan Applications, and Accurate Course Placement.

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

TRUSTED POINTS OF REFERENCE

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

ACT National Curriculum Survey®

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

ACT® College and Career Readiness Standards

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

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

ACT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks

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

ACT National Curriculum Survey® 2020
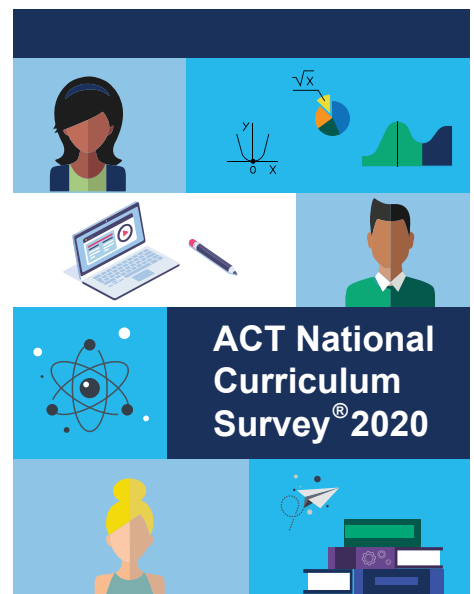
MEASURE TO MONITOR PROGRESS

Use benchmarks to measure progress.

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

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

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

MORE THAN A SCORE
STRATEGY #1: ACADEMIC ADVISING

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

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

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

THE ACT® TEST

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

Students who take the ACT test receive personalized college and career decision-making information to assist in establishing college performance baselines. The ACT test is offered nationally and at the state and district level (including district and/or individual schools).

ACT Test Information Release (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. By simply logging in to their MyACT account, students can purchase their TIR, or they can order it during the National test registration process. **Learn more**.

*TIR is available for National Testing only.

National Testing

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

Place: Administered in test centers across the United States.

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

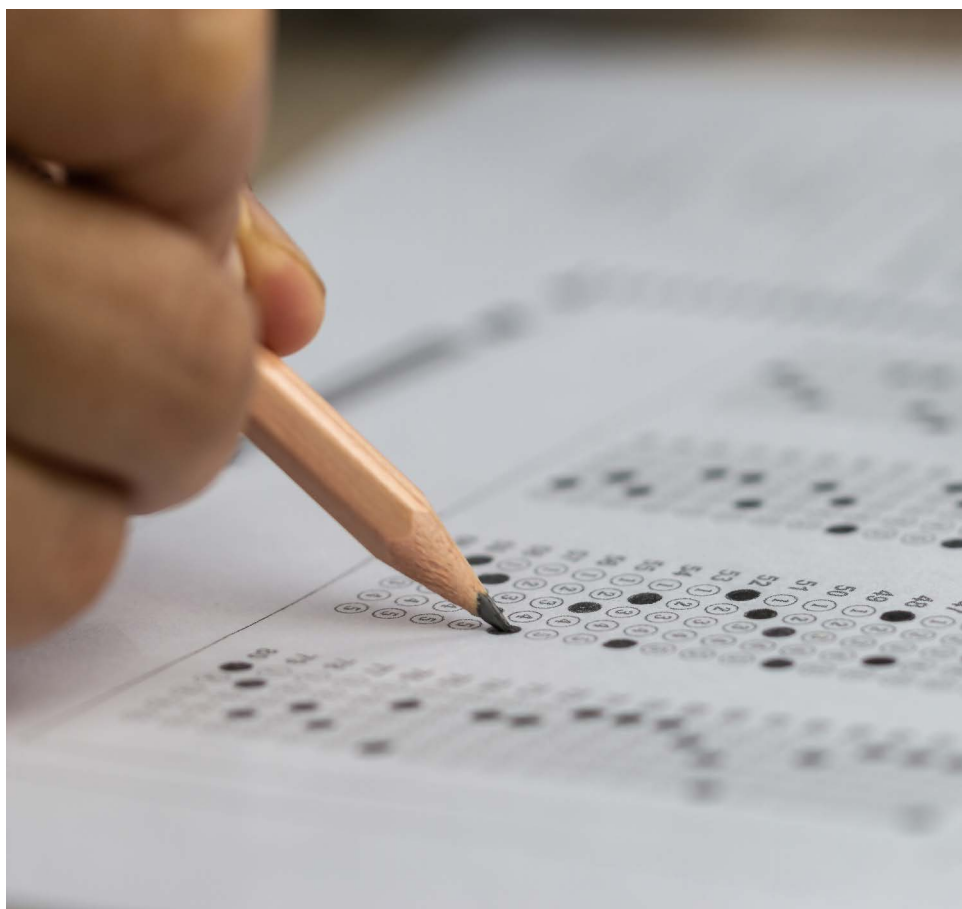**Test Types:** The ACT test or the ACT test with writing.

Pricing (2024–2025): $69 per student for ACT; $94 per student for ACT with writing.

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

Pricing (2024–2025)*: Paper – $55.50 per student for ACT; $70.25 per student for ACT with writing; Online – $53.25 per student for ACT; $68.00 per student for ACT with writing, with additional discounts available for districts with 50–100 percent of students in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program (FRLP).

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

2024-2025 ACT DISTRICT TESTING
Free and Reduced Lunch Program (FRLP) Discount Pricing

TIER 3
75-100%

ONLINE	
$49.25	**$65.00** with writing

PAPER AND PENCIL	
$51.50	**$67.25** with writing

TIER 2
50-74%

ONLINE	
$51.25	**$67.00** with writing

PAPER AND PENCIL	
$53.50	**$69.25** with writing

TIER 1
0-49%

ONLINE	
$53.25	**$68.00** with writing

PAPER AND PENCIL	
$55.50	**$70.25** with writing

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

Benefits of ACT Testing in School

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

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

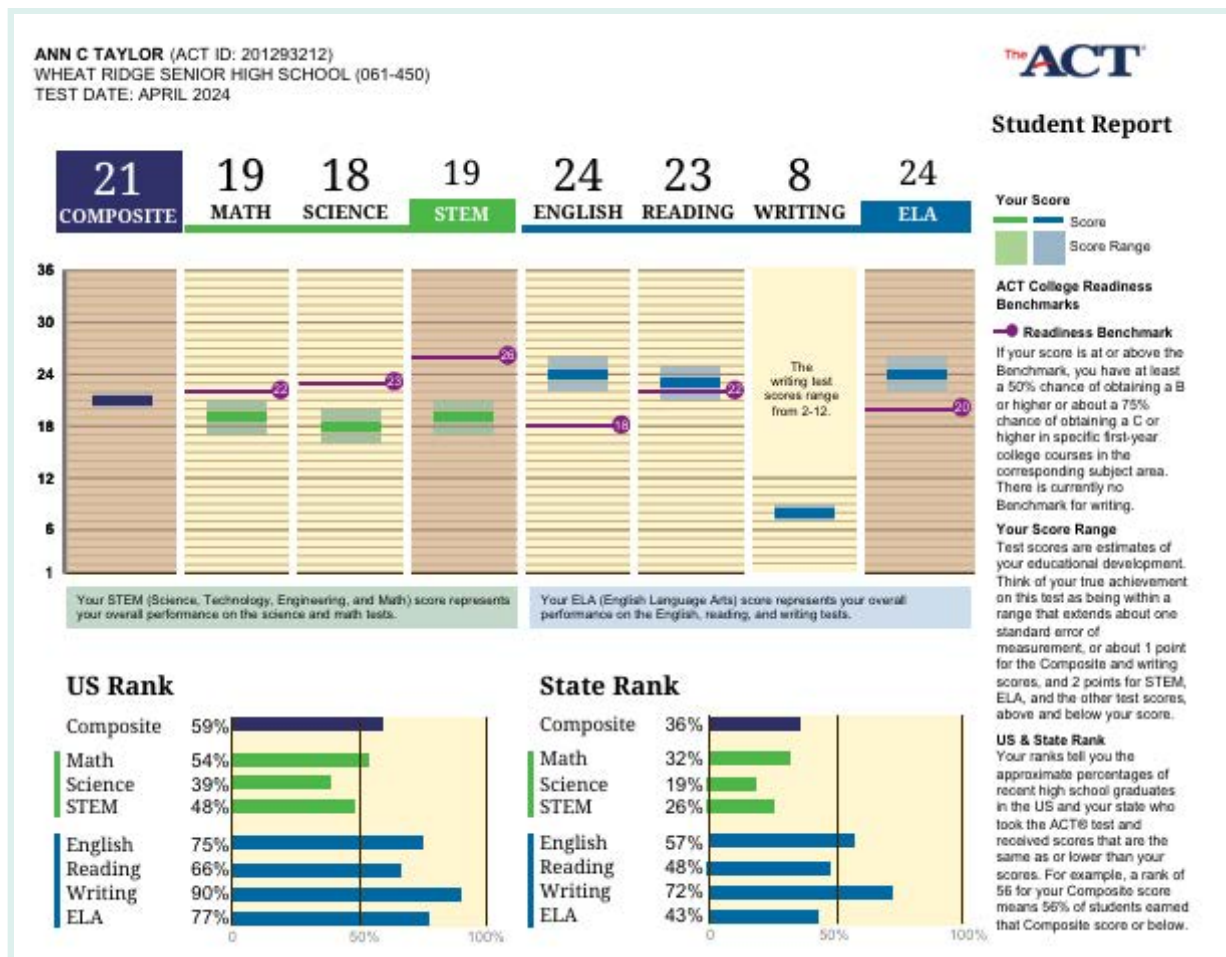**For educators**. Benefits to educators of school day testing include the following:
- Provides information on academic achievement and college readiness for all students.
- Generates online data to make decisions based on test results.
- Serves as an evidence-based achievement test that can help meet local, state, and federal accountability requirements.

ANN C TAYLOR (ACT ID: 201293212)
WHEAT RIDGE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (061-450)
TEST DATE: APRIL 2024

The ACT — Student Report

| 21 COMPOSITE | 19 MATH | 18 SCIENCE | 19 STEM | 24 ENGLISH | 23 READING | 8 WRITING | 24 ELA |

Your STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) score represents your overall performance on the science and math tests.

Your ELA (English Language Arts) score represents your overall performance on the English, reading, and writing tests.

The writing test scores range from 2-12.

Your Score — Score / Score Range

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks
Readiness Benchmark — If your score is at or above the Benchmark, you have at least a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in specific first-year college courses in the corresponding subject area. There is currently no Benchmark for writing.

Your Score Range — Test scores are estimates of your educational development. Think of your true achievement on this test as being within a range that extends about one standard error of measurement, or about 1 point for the Composite and writing scores, and 2 points for STEM, ELA, and the other test scores, above and below your score.

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

US Rank

Composite	59%
Math	54%
Science	39%
STEM	48%
English	75%
Reading	66%
Writing	90%
ELA	77%

State Rank

Composite	36%
Math	32%
Science	19%
STEM	26%
English	57%
Reading	48%
Writing	72%
ELA	43%

TEST ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS (TAA)

ACT seeks to help you serve all students. For your students with disabilities and those who are not proficient in English, you 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

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

Pre-Recorded Audio. Pre-recorded audio files will now be available for download. This will allow schools to use hardware which does not have USB capabilities.

American Sign Language (ASL) Videos. Beginning in Spring 2024, this new accommodation will allow students with a reading disability who use ASL as their primary mode of communication to have improved access to the ACT. Deaf students with a reading impairment will be able to view all test items and answer choices in Video American Sign Language (VASL). This feature will be embedded within the computer based test engine. For products that do not yet have **VASL** capability, local interpretation may be allowed as well (with approval).

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

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

MYACT

Students use the online platform **MyACT** to do the following:

- Register for the National ACT test.
- Find National test center locations.
- Find information about accommodations.
- View and send score reports—Select four colleges to receive free reports (up to 2 days post testing).

- Access online practice tests.
- Purchase official ACT test prep products.
- Access frequently asked questions.
- Plan for college and career with free personalized inventories and more.
- Opt in to the **Educational Opportunity Service (EOS)** program.

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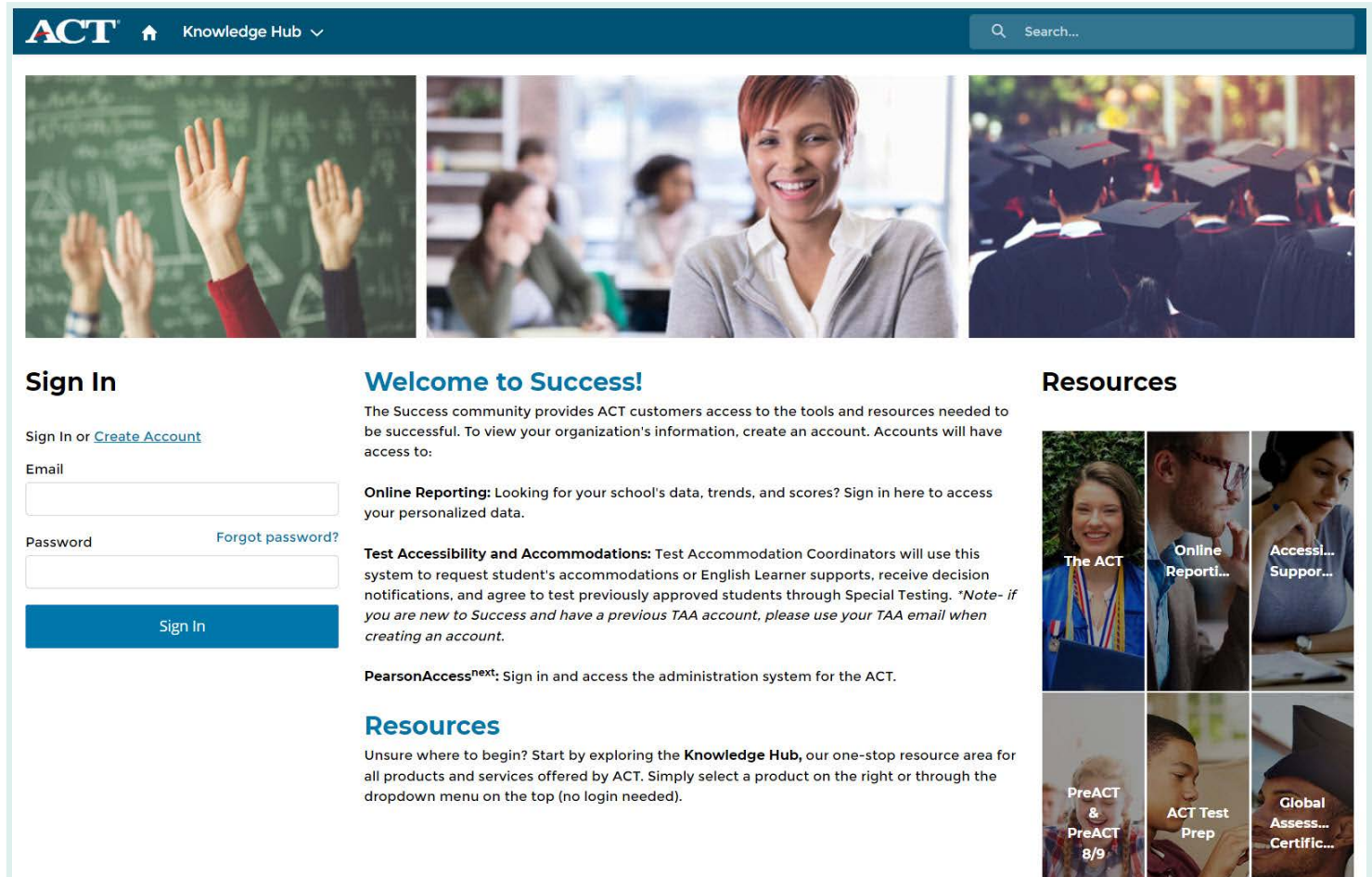
ONLINE REPORTING

As an additional feature of the ACT test, **online reporting** provides schools and districts the ability to view current and historical student data and disaggregate, filter, and customize reports. This is done via an interactive, dynamic interface and data visualization tools (see page 35). Contract states can view contract reports as well as national, state, and district data. The data is available online after each test administration. Data is on-demand, centralized, easily accessible, and downloadable in real-time for reporting on your ACT assessments.

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

Interface portal. The reporting portal offers:
- Easy access to reports.
- Drill-down capabilities.
- Saving of custom reports.
- ACT data after each national test.
- Access to historical data.

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

Online Reporting for ACT programs. Customers will have new report options on the Roster Report page, allowing them to select the Individual Student Report (ISR) or the High School Report in both English and Spanish with the toggle of a button. This allows users to easily access PDFs in both languages to email to parents and reduces the reliance on paper reports.
Note: This is only available for state and district customers.

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.
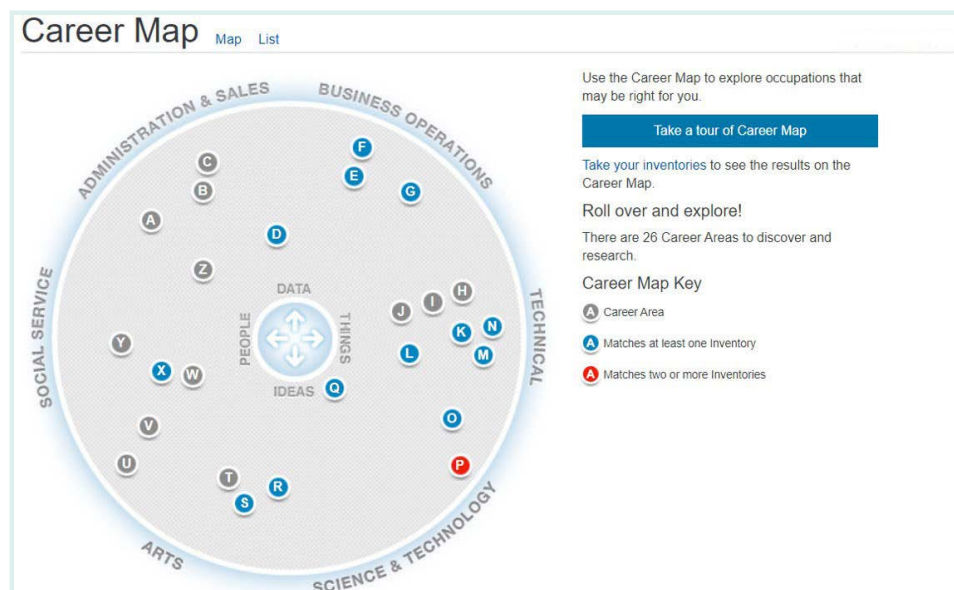
NUMBERS TO NOTE
CORE CURRICULUM SCORES

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 **2023** 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 10th, 11th, and/or 12th grade levels to provide schools and districts with the data necessary to help position students for success after high school. Test scores can:

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

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

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

Superscores

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

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

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

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

NUMBERS TO NOTE
REAL VALUE OF RETAKES

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

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

Read more.

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 1–June 1
Format options: Paper and online beginning Fall 2024
Test subjects: English, math, reading, and science
Question types: Multiple-choice only
Test security: Booklets of test-takers retained retained by student/schools
Pricing (2024 -2025): PreACT 8/9 is $19 per student for paper, $18 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 1–June 1
Format options: Paper and online beginning Fall 2024
Test subjects: English, math, reading, science
Question types: Multiple-choice only
Test security: Booklets of test-takers retained by student/schools
Pricing (2024 -2025): PreACT is $19 per student for paper, $18 per student for online

PreACT® Secure™

PreACT Secure provides 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 (2024–2025): PreACT Secure is $21.50 per student for paper, $20.50 per student for online

TEST OPTIMAL

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

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

PreACT Secure Practice Test. The practice test is now available and includes Video-based American Sign Language (VASL), the first public release of this new accommodation.

PreACT 9 Secure. In Spring 2025, PreACT 9 Secure will offer similar secure administrative operations as the PreACT Secure. PreACT 9 Secure will be offered through state and district services in an online format only.

PreACT Secure Paper Version. A paper version will be added in Spring 2025 giving customers a choice of pencil and paper or online.

*Educational Opportunity Services opt-in available for paper tests only. **Career Interest Inventory available for paper tests only.

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 26).

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**.
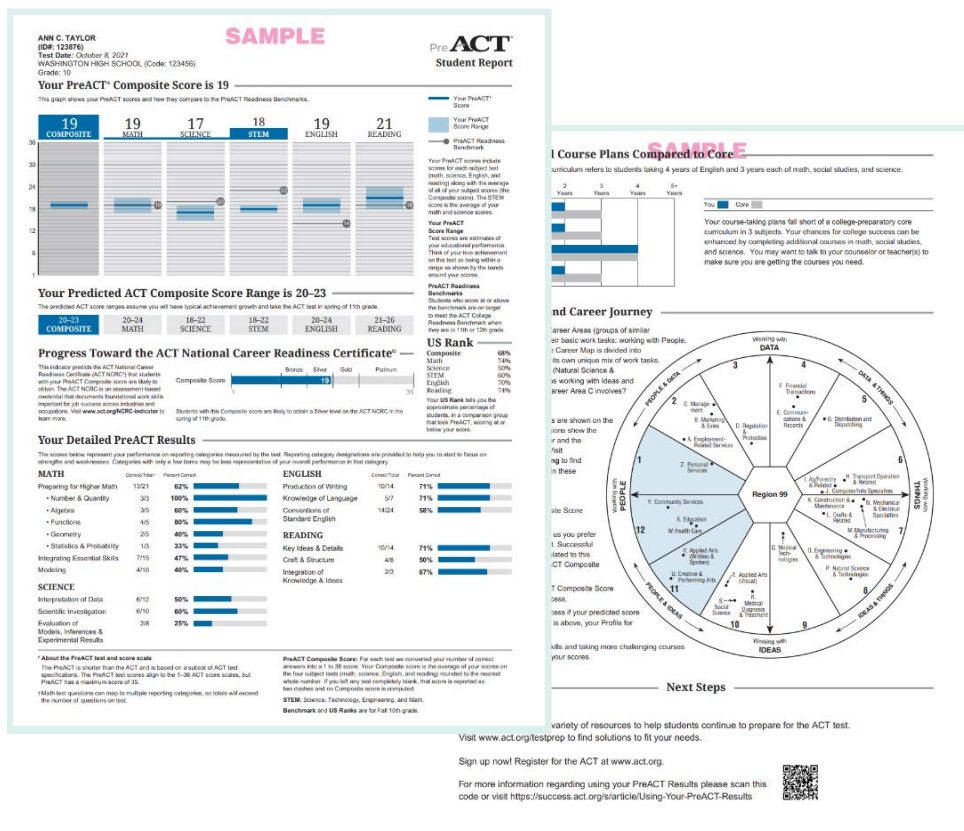
TRAIN TO GUIDE STUDENT PATHS

Use ACT Professional Learning 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 reparing 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 engage educators in examining their own data and exploring strategies they can use in their PLCs, departmental meetings, and classrooms the very next day.

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

- **ACT Instructional Mastery**: See previous page.
- **Social and Emotional Learning**: Our team provides a portfolio of SEL workshops intended primarily for schools and districts using Mosaic™ by ACT® SEL products. See page 29.
- **The ACT, PreACT, PreACT 8/9, and ACT Online Prep**: 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 like the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), as well as working with your school's WorkKeys assessment data and in using the WorkKeys Curriculum for both the individual student and with school level implementation.
- **Teaching and Learning Best Practices**: Our team can assist educators to 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; our content workshops assist academic departments in determining how to enhance ACT preparation; and the ACT Online Prep (AOP) workshop provides insights into both student and school-level implementation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACT TEST PREP AND MORE

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

ACT Online Prep (AOP)

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

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

1. **Supplemental Curriculum to Core Classroom Teaching: Content Reteach, Preteach, and Mastery Practice**
    Teachers can use the content to pre-teach content and skills, teach in whole-group, small-group, or for individual student lessons, or even regularly assign lessons or assessments as bell-ringer activities. This puts content that aligns with the ACT test in the teachers' hands for scaffolded classroom instruction aimed at mastery.
2. **Teacher-Facilitated: Content Development, Test Preparation, and Strategy Development**
    Using the extensive AOP content in an ACT Test Prep class gives the facilitator the tools needed to guide students through the content in a data-driven fashion. The reports show how students are growing and reveal the areas where students might need more time. The ACT Online Prep Educator Guide includes strategies for **implementing AOP into the classroom**.

TEST OPTIMAL
Multiple Test Prep Options
If you look at our test prep options on the ACT website, you'll see this promise: Delivered by the experts, designed to it 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. **Student Self-Directed: Content Reinforcement, Test Familiarization, and Testing Strategies**
    Motivated students may do well with a self-directed test prep approach, but to increase outcomes for more/all students, you should consider a facilitative approach.

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

INTERVENING FOR SUCCESS

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

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

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

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

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**.

OFFICIAL ACT TEST PREP PRODUCTS

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

The Official ACT Subject Guides

Description: Step-by-step information for each section test, allowing you to familiarize yourself with the types of questions you can expect to see on test day
Why Use This Option: Concept-based outlines for the section you plan to focus on
Format: Books & Online Feature

The Official ACT Self-Pace Course powered by Kaplan

Description: Test content and test-day strategies available anywhere, anytime with on-demand tutorials led by an expert from Kaplan
Why Use This Option: The 6-month unlimited access subscription provides ample opportunity to prepare for the test with thousands of practice items
Format: On-Demand Videos

The Official ACT Live Online Class powered by Kaplan

Description: Test content and test-day strategies provided in a virtual classroom led by an expert from Kaplan who can answer your questions and adapt to your needs in real time
Why Use This Option: Access to everything in The Official ACT Self-Paced Course, plus 16 hours of live instruction
Format: Virtual Classroom

The Official ACT Prep Guide

Description: Real test questions and detailed explanations for every answer to help you get familiar with the format so you can approach the ACT with confidence and perform your best
Why Use This Option: A comprehensive guide to fully prepare for the test in book format with an ancillary digital experience to extend your prep online
Format: Book & Online Features
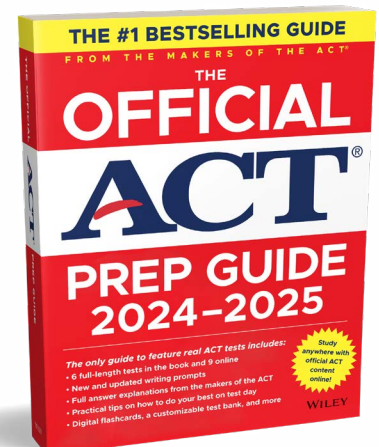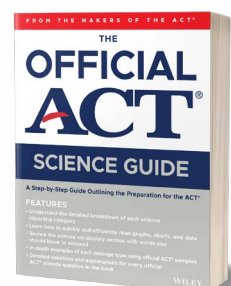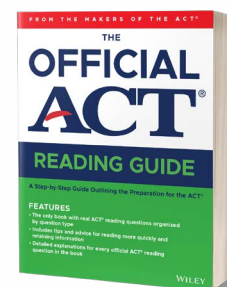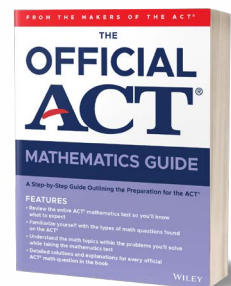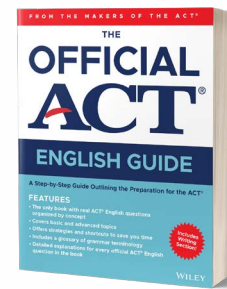
COMMIT TO ASSESS, CERTIFY, AND GROW

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.*

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

WORKKEYS® SUITE

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

WorkKeys® Assessments

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

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

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

WorkKeys Essential Skills Assessment. Assess and develop the skills needed for workplace success with the ACT® WorkKeys® Essential Skills Assessment. Part of the WorkKeys system, WorkKeys Essential Skills measures the critical skills that boost performance, productivity, and effectiveness: Integrity, Work Ethic, Collaboration, Resilience, Leadership, and Creativity. Help your students prepare for the next step on their career pathway. **Learn more**.

- **Applied Technology:** Measures basic principles and skills in four areas of technology: electricity, mechanics, fluid dynamics, and thermodynamics.
- **Business Writing:** Measures the skills used when writing an original response to a work-related situation.
- **Workplace Observation:** Measures skills in observing, understanding, evaluating, and following processes, demonstrations, and other workplace procedures.
- **Fit:** Measures an individual's interests and values and matches them to the work environment.
- **Talent:** Helps employers find and develop employees by measuring workrelated attitudes and behaviors.
- *New!* **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 scored reports are available in the WorkKeys Reports Portal. WorkKeys assessment reports required for the NCRC have both level and scale scores, which indicate an ability to perform more complex skills as the scores increase. Each type has a different purpose:

- **Level scores:** 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.

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

NCRC digital badges. Since 2022, students who earn the NCRC can highlight their essential workplace knowledge, skills, and achievements via digital credentials. Students can use the credentials as a digital transcript, on an application for apprenticeships, or directly in a job search.

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.

WorkKeys® Curriculum

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NUMBERS TO NOTE
PROGRESS INDICATOR AND REFRESHED WORKKEYS

The Progress Toward the ACT NCRC indicator provides students who take the ACT with information about their level of career readiness based on their ACT composite score. More specifically, this indicator provides an estimate of students' likely achievement level for the ACT WorkKeys NCRC. Based on the most recent ACT/WorkKeys linking study, students who earn an ACT composite score of:
- <13 are unlikely to obtain an ACT NCRC
- 13 to 16 are most likely to obtain a Bronze NCRC
- 17 to 21 are most likely to obtain a Silver NCRC
- 22 to 26 are most likely to obtain a Gold NCRC

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

CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT PLANNER

You can organize all your student assessment options into the **Curriculum and Assessment Planner**. This tool allows you to create a comprehensive curriculum and assessment plan that will provide a sequence of data to support and enhance whole student learning from elementary through career.

The output is a simple, visual layout of your current assessments across grades and ACT Holistic Framework domains (see page 38). To make it even easier, it also includes recommended solutions to complete your comprehensive assessment plan.

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

ACT® SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENTS

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

ACT®

CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT PLANNER

Begin Your Comprehensive Plan in 4 Easy Steps

1. Share Your Goal
2. Choose Your Solutions
3. Choose Your Grades
4. Choose Your Purposes
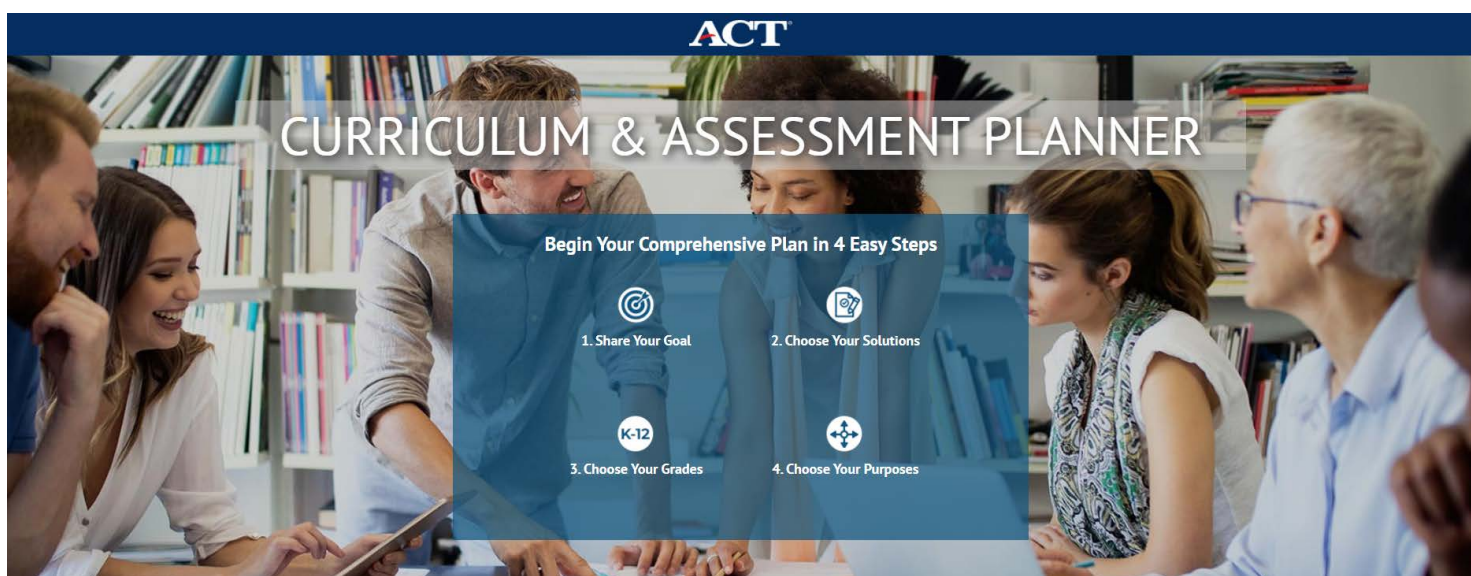
EMPOWER STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

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

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

MOSAIC™ BY ACT®

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

- **Assessment:** Mosaic SEL Assessments are part of a comprehensive system designed to measure five social emotional skills and two dimensions of school climate from elementary through high school. The online assessments use multiple item types to provide students, parents, teachers, and schools with a holistic picture of students' strengths, areas for improvement, and their perception of school safety and quality of relationships with school personnel. Assessments 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 SEL also offers a teacher observational PDF checklist for grades PK-2 at no additional cost.

- **Screener:** Based on the growing need for quick and frequent pulse checks on social emotional skills, Mosaic offers the SEL Screener for grades 3-12. It measures the same social and emotional skills and dimensions of school climate as the full assessment but uses fewer items and item types. The Screener takes 5-7 minutes to complete, yields school-level information, and can be administered up to four times over the course of a year to quickly pinpoint areas of strength, improvement, and perception of school climate.

NUMBERS TO NOTE
SEL AND ACT TEST SCORES

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

- **Curriculum:** Our robust SEL 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 on SEL standards.

- **Professional Development:** We offer impactful professional development for educators, including materials to support students and educators in building systemic trauma-informed practices. In addition, we offer a variety of options for additional face-to-face, virtual, and train-the-trainer SEL professional development.

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

- Our SEL program is backed by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), and the IMS Global Learning Consortium.

- Our SEL curriculum for grades 6–8 has earned CASEL's SELect designation.

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

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

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

NUMBERS TO NOTE

ACT has learned that students experienced increased challenges to their mental health and academic progress during the pandemic. In a new report, ACT found that the majority of students reported that the pandemic had a negative effect on their:
- motivation to learn
- time management and organizational skills
- focus and discipline
- relationships with friends

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

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

Dashboard and user support. Mosaic by ACT SEL dashboard features:
- Measure college and career readiness using the high school assessment Mosaic Readiness Index.
- Interventions Tab provides teachers with a vetted repository of resources to improve students' SEL skills.
- Gain district insights using district roster and aggregate reports.

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

SUPPORT READINESS EQUITY

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

ACT Center for Equity in Learning

The **ACT Center for Equity in Learning** is committed to showcasing and supporting ACT's efforts to close opportunity and outcomes gaps for all individuals, including students of color, first-generation college students, families with economic challenges, and exceptional and diverse learners.

The Center's work covers four areas:

- **Collaborations:** The Center works with a network of organizations to advance shared interests in research and advocacy, and to support efforts aimed at closing equity gaps. Through these strategic collaborations, the Center aims to provide all learners throughout their education and career journey.

- **Research:** The Center's research goal is to produce evidence-based insights that will help guide and support thought leadership and will help to inform changes in policy and practice. This work is designed to improve learning and achievement for all populations to reach their full potential.

- **Accessibility:** ACT is committed to closing equity and achievement gaps by offering all students, regardless of their circumstances, the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired. The Center serves to amplify and support ACT's accessibility and accommodations efforts, including supports for English learners and others, to decrease barriers to learning and engagement.

- **Social responsibility and impact:** Each year, ACT invests a portion of its revenue to increase equitable 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 Wavier program, the American College Application Campaign (both free resources), and many other efforts the Center provides benefits to learners experiencing barriers and hardships.
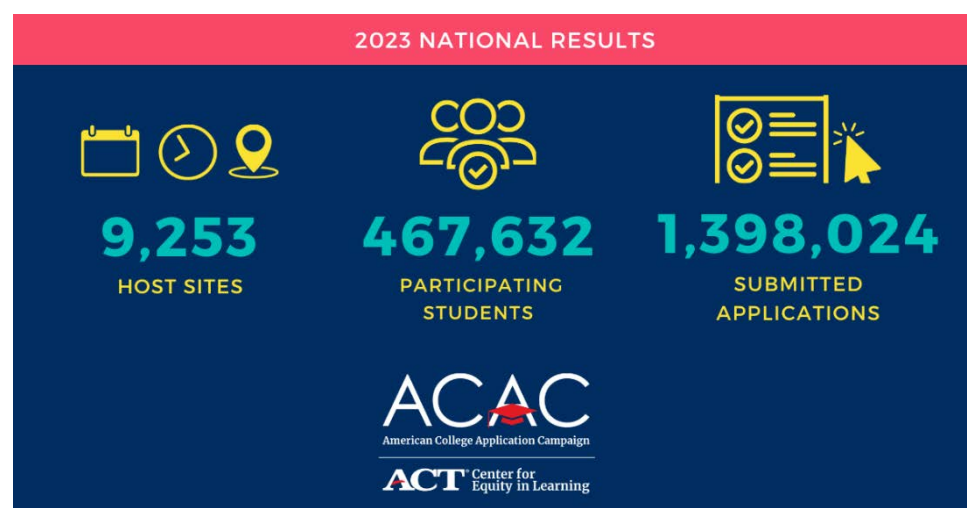
NUMBERS TO NOTE

HIGHER NCRC LEVELS CORRELATE TO HIGHER INCOME LEVELS

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

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE APPLICATION CAMPAIGN

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

Why college matters. Higher education will determine the future of our nation. Often, income inequalities are driven by a lack of access to college. College graduates are more likely to be employed, vote, and be leaders in their communities.

2023 NATIONAL RESULTS

9,253 HOST SITES

467,632 PARTICIPATING STUDENTS

1,398,024 SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS

ACAC
American College Application Campaign

ACT® Center for Equity in Learning

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 close the equity gap include:

· Fee waivers for the ACT test
· Free score reports
· Free test prep
· Free Test Information Release (see page 10)

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

Fee Waivers

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

Free Score Reports

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

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

Free Test Prep

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

UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

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

SUPPORT COLLEGE AND CAREER EXPLORATION

myOptions 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 myOptions Encourage program!
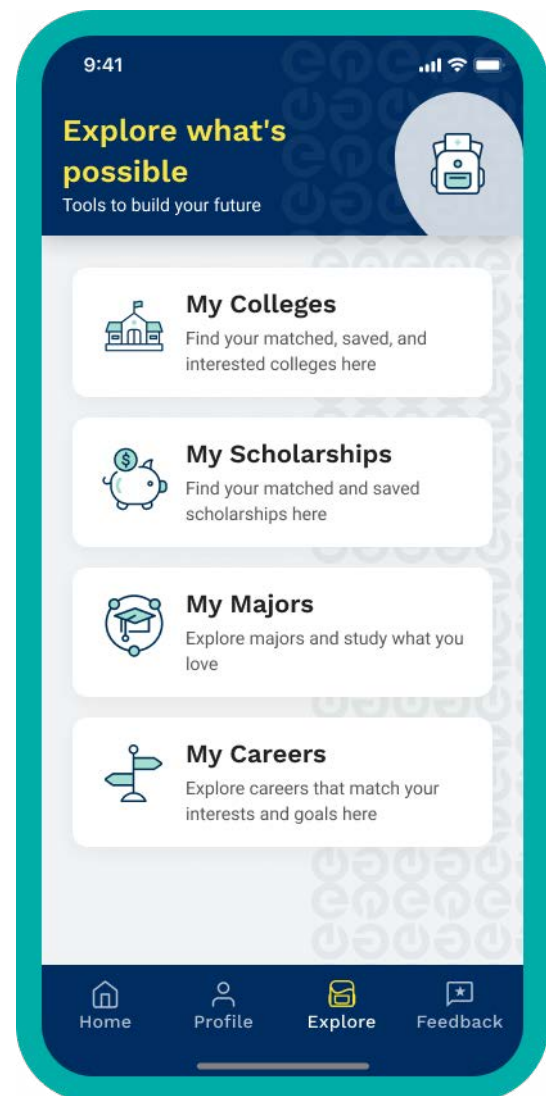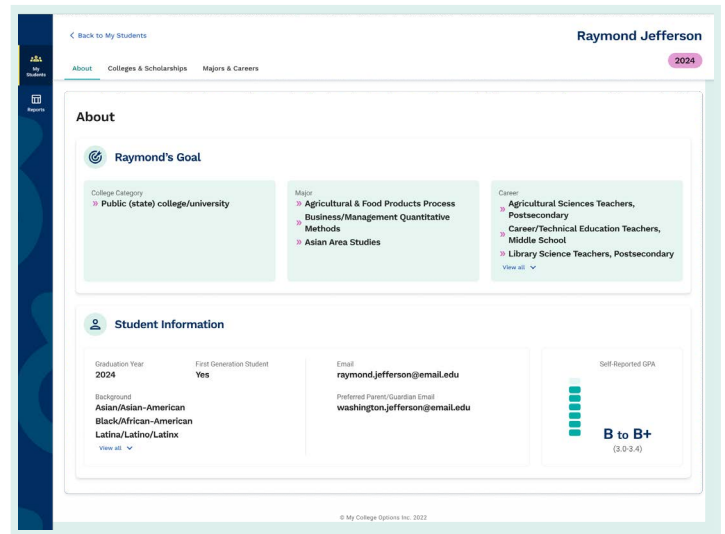
UPDATES & ENHANCEMENTS

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

34

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.
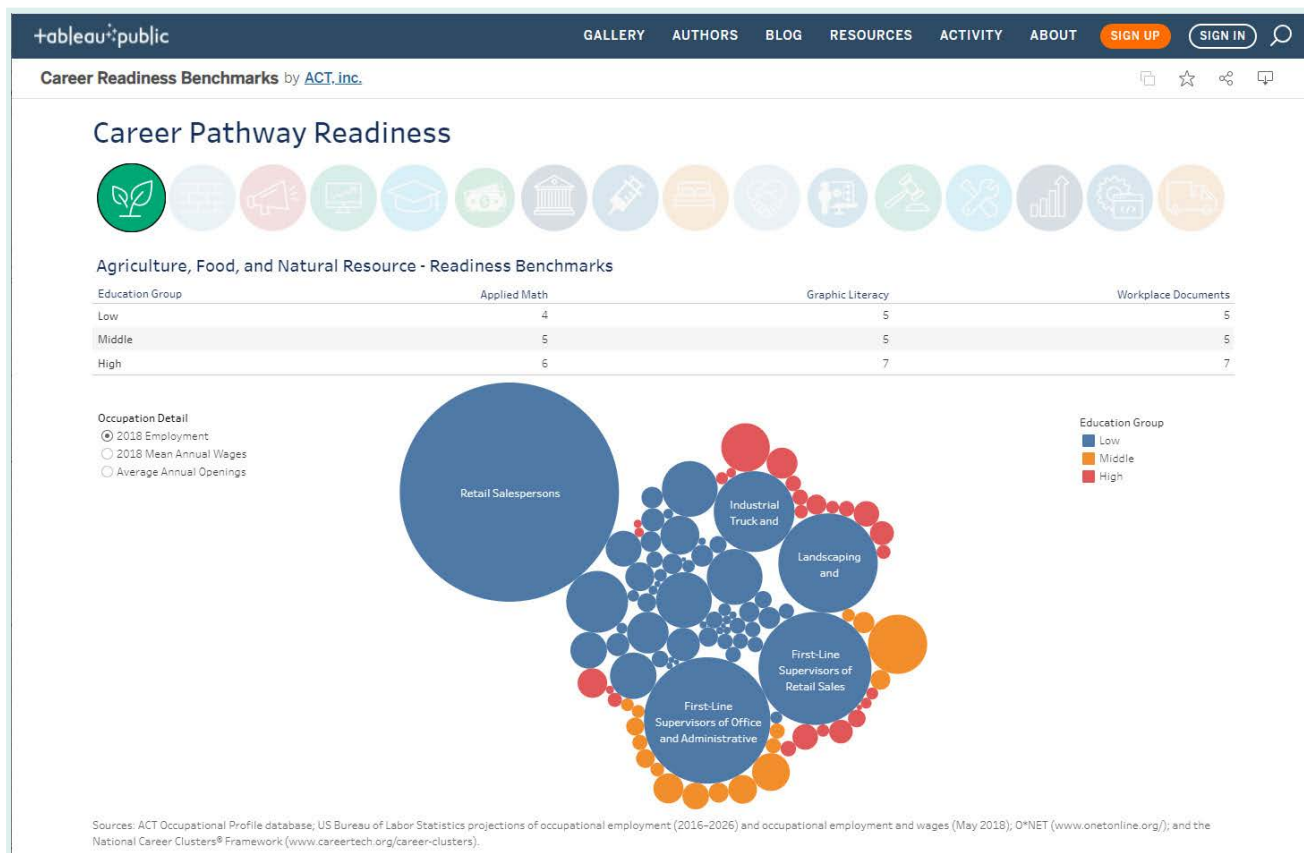
2024/2025 ACT TEST DATES
United States, US Territories, and Puerto Rico

TEST DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINES		
	Regular Deadline	Late Deadline	Photo Upload Standby Deadline
Sep. 14, 2024	Aug. 9, 2024	Aug. 25, 2024	Sep. 6, 2024
Oct. 26, 2024	Sep. 20, 2024	Oct. 7, 2024	Oct. 18, 2024
Dec. 14, 2024	Nov. 8, 2024	Nov. 22, 2024	Dec. 6, 2024
Feb. 8, 2025	Jan. 3, 2025	Jan. 20, 2025	Jan. 31, 2025
Apr. 5, 2025	Feb. 28, 2025	Mar. 16, 2025	Mar. 28, 2025
Jun. 14, 2025	May 9, 2025	May 26, 2025	Jun. 6, 2025
Jul. 12, 2025*	Jun. 6, 2025	Jun. 20, 2025	Jul. 4, 2025

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

Test Information Release for the 2024-2025 testing year will occur in September, December, and February. Visit act.org/the-act/tir for details.

2024/2025* ACT DISTRICT TESTING DATES

	Paper Testing Windows**		Online Testing Windows	
	Test Window 1	Test Window 2	Test Window 3	Test Window 4
Fall 2024	Oct. 15, 2024	Oct. 29, 2024	Oct. 15-18, 2024 Oct. 21-25, 2024	Oct. 29–Nov. 1, 2024 Nov. 4-8, 2024
Initial Spring 2025	N/A - This window is open to online testing only.		Feb. 25-28, 2025 Mar. 3-7, 2025	
Early Spring 2025	Mar. 11, 2025	Mar. 25, 2025	Mar. 11-14, 2025 Mar. 17-21, 2025	Mar. 25-28, 2025 Mar. 31-Apr.4, 2025
Late Spring 2025	Apr. 8, 2025	Apr. 22, 2025	Apr. 8-11, 2025 Apr. 14-18, 2025	Apr. 22-25, 2025 Apr. 28 - May 2, 2025

*To see the latest on ACT District Testing enrollment and what's new for the 2024-2025 school year, visit act.org/district-testing
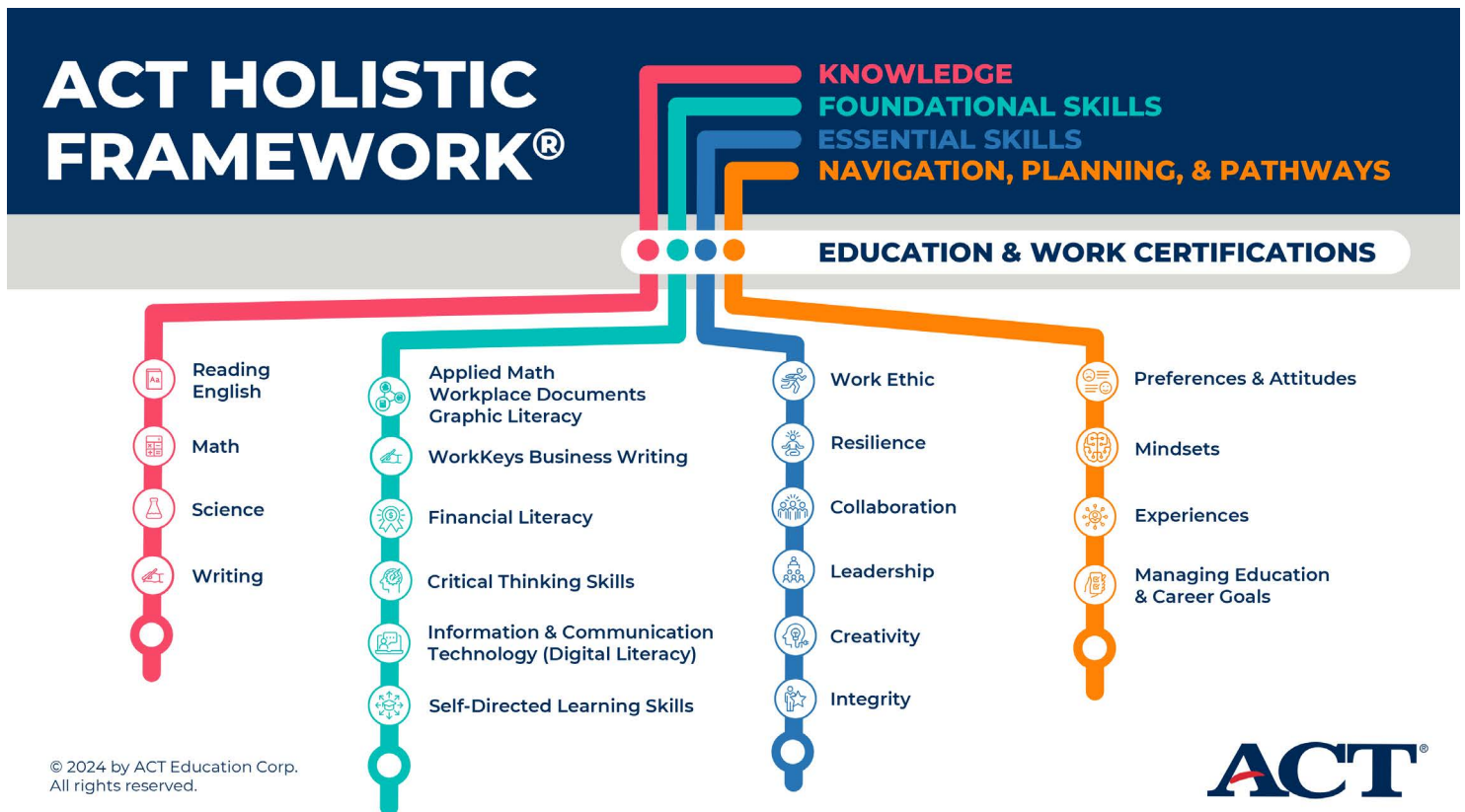**Standard Administration (Connect with us for more info on accommodation test window dates.)

ACT HOLISTIC FRAMEWORK
Addressing the Skills Gap for the Future

The world of work is changing and with it the definitions of college and career readiness. That's why ACT is paving the way. We've released an updated Holistic Framework that provides direction, definitions, and focus that redefines readiness for today's world. This revised Holistic Framework ensures all students will leave high school credentialed with the knowledge and skills to apply to their life journey.

The updated ACT Holistic Framework is one that everyone — counselors, learners, administrators, workforce professionals, employers, and many other market stakeholders — can align on. This version prioritizes the elements of readiness into major areas that are equally important for success: Knowledge, Foundational Skills, Essential Skills, and equally critical, Navigation, Planning & Pathways – or the experience of applying these skills within the individual's navigation and decision making.

ACT HOLISTIC FRAMEWORK®

KNOWLEDGE
FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS
ESSENTIAL SKILLS
NAVIGATION, PLANNING, & PATHWAYS

EDUCATION & WORK CERTIFICATIONS

KNOWLEDGE
- Reading English
- Math
- Science
- Writing

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS
- Applied Math Workplace Documents Graphic Literacy
- WorkKeys Business Writing
- Financial Literacy
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Information & Communication Technology (Digital Literacy)
- Self-Directed Learning Skills

ESSENTIAL SKILLS
- Work Ethic
- Resilience
- Collaboration
- Leadership
- Creativity
- Integrity

NAVIGATION, PLANNING, & PATHWAYS
- Preferences & Attitudes
- Mindsets
- Experiences
- Managing Education & Career Goals

ACT®

38

CONTACTS

ACT Client Relations Team

Region	State	ACT Representative	Email
West Region **Sauda Callahan, Director**	Arizona	Jessica Eilertson	Jessica.Eilertson@act.org
	Alaska	Emily Duplessis	Emily.Duplessis@act.org
	California	Gladys Recinos	Gladys.Recinos@act.org
	Hawaii	Emily Duplessis	Emily.Duplessis@act.org
	Idaho	Bailey Stilley	Bailey.Stilley@act.org
	Montana	Jessica Eilertson	Jessica.Eilertson@act.org
	Nevada	Gladys Recinos	Gladys.Recinos@act.org
	New Mexico	Bailey Stilley	Bailey.Stilley@act.org
	Oregon	Emily Duplessis	Emily.Duplessis@act.org
	Texas Central	Jonathan Delgado	Jonathan.Delgado@act.org
	Texas Northwest	Bailey Stilley	Bailey.Stilley@act.org
	Texas South	Jonathan Delgado	Jonathan.Delgado@act.org
	Texas West & Dallas-Fort Worth	Rose Gardner	Rose.Gardner@act.org
	Utah	Bailey Stilley	Bailey.Stilley@act.org
	Washington	Emily Duplessis	Emily.Duplessis@act.org
West Region **Julie Sanders, Director**	Arkansas	Reenie Laginess	Reenie.Laginess@act.org
	Colorado	Kim Rasmussen	Kim.Rasmussen@act.org
	East Texas	Reenie Laginess	Reenie.Laginess@act.org
	Iowa	Dominic Iannone	Dominic.Iannone@act.org
	Kansas	Kim Rasmussen	Kim.Rasmussen@act.org
	Louisiana	Mia Edwards	Mia.Edwards@act.org
	Minnesota	Jeremy Willey	Jeremy.Willey@act.org
	Missouri	Jerome Williams	Jerome.Williams@act.org
	Nebraska	Dominic Iannone	Dominic.Iannone@act.org
	North Dakota	Kim Rasmussen	Kim.Rasmussen@act.org
	Oklahoma	Tabitha Zurovetz	Tabitha.Zurovetz@act.org
	South Dakota	Jerome Williams	Jerome.Williams@act.org
	Wyoming	Dominic Iannone	Dominic.Iannone@act.org

Region	State	ACT Representative	Email
Northeast Region **Ashley Buchman, Director**	Connecticut	Greg Napierala	Greg.Napierala@act.org
	Delaware	MJ Malandrucco	MJ.Malandrucco@act.org
	District of Columbia	MJ Malandrucco	MJ.Malandrucco@act.org
	Illinois	George Schlott	George.Schlott@act.org
	Indiana	George Schlott	George.Schlott@act.org
	Kentucky	N. Lynn Hunley	Lynn.Hunley@act.org
	Maine	Greg Napierala	Greg.Napierala@act.org
	Maryland	MJ Malandrucco	MJ.Malandrucco@act.org
	Massachusetts	Greg Napierala	Greg.Napierala@act.org
	Michigan	George Schlott	George.Schlott@act.org
	New Hampshire	Greg Napierala	Greg.Napierala@act.org
	New Jersey	MJ Malandrucco	MJ.Malandrucco@act.org
	New York	Greg Napierala	Greg.Napierala@act.org
	Ohio East	Vicki Thompson-Campbell	Victoria.Campbell@act.org
	Ohio West	Beth DaLonzo	Beth.DaLonzo@act.org
	Pennsylvania East	MJ Malandrucco	MJ.Malandrucco@act.org
	Pennsylvania West	Greg Napierala	Greg.Napierala@act.org
	Rhode Island	Greg Napierala	Greg.Napierala@act.org
	Vermont	Greg Napierala	Greg.Napierala@act.org
	Virginia	MJ Malandrucco	MJ.Malandrucco@act.org
	West Virginia	N. Lynn Hunley	Lynn.Hunley@act.org
	Wisconsin	Dean Simon	Dean.Simon@act.org
Southeast Region **Ginger Green, Director**	Alabama	Gennine Holley	Gennine.Holley@act.org
	Central and South Florida	Jess Duesler	Jess.Duesler@act.org
	North Florida	Amber Dowdy	Amber.Dowdy@act.org
	Georgia	Lydia Griffin	Lydia.Griffin@act.org
	Mississippi	Leslie Hood	Leslie.Hood@act.org
	North Carolina East	Chris Lefevre	Chris.Lefevre@act.org
	North Carolina West	Lydia Griffin	Lydia.Griffin@act.org
	South Carolina	Chris Lefevre	Chris.Lefevre@act.org
	Tennessee	Schwann Logan	Schwann.Logan@act.org

East Region **Darin Scheer, Sr. Director**	Anthony Giudice	Sr. SEL Partnership Manager	Anthony.Giudice@act.org
	Linda J. Guidry	Strategic Senior Account Executive	Linda.Guidry@act.org
West Region **Brad Patterson, Sr. Director**	Doug Powers	Sr. SEL Partnership Manager	Douglas.Powers@act.org
	Theodore Murray	Strategic Senior Account Executive	Theodore.Murray@act.org

Additional Resources

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

ACT District Testing Communications Toolkit

ACT WorkKeys Communications Toolkit

English Language Learner (ELL) Toolkit

K12 Counselor Toolkit

MyJourney

PreACT Communications Toolkit

Student Recognition Kit

NOTES

NOTES