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Additional Information on the PreACT & ACT

The answers provided to these questions will inform Superintendents if the State-Sponsored College Entrance Exams (CEE) the PreACT & the ACT are right for their district.

<u>**Before Testing**</u>:

- Describe the typical student that signs up for the PreACT & the ACT.

    - All students benefit from taking the PreACT and the ACT.

        - The typical PreACT examinee is a student in grade 10 who takes the test in the fall of their sophomore year in high school. The PreACT provides valuable feedback as to whether students are "on track" for postsecondary success.

        - The typical ACT examinee is a student in grade 11 who takes the test in the spring of their junior year in high school. The ACT is utilized for college admissions, accurate class placement, and scholarship qualification.

    - Both the PreACT and ACT tests are distinctive in that they also provide career navigation tools that can inform a student's career path based on their goals and interests, whether or not they intend to pursue postsecondary education. For students interested in STEM, the PreACT and ACT are the only CEEs that provide a science assessment which, when paired with the math assessment, enables ACT to calculate a unique STEM readiness score.

- What is the rostering process for the PreACT & the ACT?

    - For the PreACT test the annual registration process involves the following actions:

        - After ACT opens the online ordering system for test materials for 2022-23, we will notify district test coordinators of this activation and will ask them to go online to place orders for the selected test date or window. District test coordinators should order test materials at least four weeks before their scheduled test date, allowing materials to be delivered two or more weeks before testing to give testing staff time to prepare.

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- District test coordinators will order test materials for each school. They will order one test material package for each student testing, including students who are testing with accommodations or English learner (EL) supports.

- Each test materials package includes a test book, answer document, and instruction booklet for the student. Accommodations or English learner supports test materials packages also include an alternate format test book (e.g., braille, USB, reader's script).

- Administration manuals and other materials needed by school test coordinators to administer PreACT tests are automatically included in each order. The number included in each shipment is determined by the number of test materials packages ordered. There is a small overage of materials sent with each order.

o For the ACT test the annual registration process involves the following actions:

- ACT will collaborate with the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE-State) and school districts to create an organization file.

- ACT will upload the State-approved organization file of schools and districts into ACT's test administration platform. Schools that are not in the State file but should be given the ability to test under this contract will require State approval.

- District test coordinators and school test coordinators will be set up with accounts and granted access to the test administration system according to the hierarchy within the organizational file. Varying user accounts can view or modify the organization in the system. Accounts across the state, district, and school levels are based on user needs and according to data security policies. The State can help define access levels which are configurable based on roles.

- The State and/or districts will upload the student data upload (SDU) file to create a record for each student. The coordinator uploading the SDU will need to assign the appropriate delivery mode to register students for the appropriate test.

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- Test coordinators can assign all students to paper, or online. Accessibility supports and accommodations will be assigned after the SDU process.

- What are some ways students can prepare to take the PreACT & the ACT?

  o A rigorous high school curriculum prepares students for the PreACT, which is designed to measure educational progress in the context of preparing for the ACT and planning for college and careers.

  o The results from PreACT can be used to help prepare students for the ACT.

  o For the ACT test, ACT offers numerous free test prep resources, including online events, videos, practice tests, and study guides. Students will have access to both timed and untimed online practice tests for each of the four ACT subject areas. Students may sign into each of the subject tests at any time and as often as they wish to become comfortable with testing. These tests are accessed through TestNav for The ACT (click on "Practice Tests" to access) and provide students with an overall testing experience and the opportunity to learn and become confident using the tools and testing platform. There are timed and untimed options for each of the four subject area tests and several practice writing test options. Students also have the option to purchase Kaplan courses and tutoring or official ACT prep guides on the College and Career Planning for Students and Parents site.

- What types of accommodations are available for students that take the PreACT & the ACT?

  o All PreACT accessibility supports are determined at the local level; thus, schools can ensure all students have appropriate access to the assessment.

  o Accommodations and English Learner supports for the ACT are reviewed and authorized by ACT. The ACT also allows designated supports, which are determined locally and based on the student's formal educational plan.

  o Detailed information about accommodations and English Learner supports is available here.

During Testing:

- Are the PreACT & the ACT administered online or paper/pencil?

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- o The PreACT test is a paper/pencil test only.

- o The ACT test is offered both online and paper/pencil.

- Where and when is the PreACT & the ACT administered?

  - o The PreACT paper test is administered at the school, during a school day, during a designated test window selected by the Idaho State Department of Education.

  - o The ACT test is administered at school, during a school day, during a designated test window selected by the Idaho State Department of Education. The State will select **three** of the nine test windows offered by ACT for the Spring 2023 test administration. A test window consists of the following:

    - One (1) standard paper test date

    - Six (6) online standard and accommodations test dates

    - Ten (10) paper accommodations test days

- Who administers the PreACT & the ACT to the student?

  - o For both tests a school staff member serves as the lead test coordinator for administering the assessments. Schools can also identify test accommodation coordinators to help administer tests with accommodations and supports. ACT makes training and other resources available to all designated school test coordinators.

- About how long does it take for an average student to complete the PreACT & the ACT?

  - o The PreACT, administered as a battery with built-in break times, in the following increments:

    - English: 30 minutes

    - Mathematics: 40 minutes

    - Reading: 30 minutes

    - Science: 30 minutes

  - o The ACT, administered as a battery with built-in break times, in the following increments:

![Idaho State Department of Education logo]

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- English: 45 minutes

- Mathematics: 60 minutes

- Reading: 35 minutes

- Science: 35 minutes

- Writing (optional): 40 minutes

- o Students testing with certain accommodations or supports may be authorized to test with additional testing time (up to triple time) and/or over multiple days.

After Testing:

- How long after testing does it take to receive the scores on the PreACT & the ACT?

  - o The PreACT printed Individual Student Reports are delivered within 10 days of receipt of answer documents. The PreACT online Individual Student Reports are available within 5 to 10 days of receipt of answer documents.

  - o The ACT paper Student Reports are delivered within 8 weeks of receipt of examinee test responses. The ACT online Student Reports are available 3 to 8 weeks following examinee test responses.

- How are scores transmitted to/posted for the students/parents?

  - o For the PreACT test, ACT developed reports based on extensive customer and market research which present engaging visual data and provide a wealth of information.

  - o ACT's Online Reporting platform seamlessly channels student results into a single database which makes score data available to schools and districts to view as soon as it is reported. The intuitive and user-friendly interface provides educators with quick, easy access to group summaries and roster views, predefined reports, and individual student results. Users can export data in CSV or PDF file formats.

  - o Students and parents can access their ACT student reports through their MyACT.org account.

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- How many and what types of colleges accept scores from the PreACT & the ACT?

  - ACT does not share PreACT scores with colleges. The PreACT test is primarily for practice and to provide insight into the student's readiness for postsecondary education.

  - All U.S. colleges, universities, and scholarship agencies that utilize standardized test scores accept the ACT for admission, class placement, and merit-based scholarships and awards. Students can choose up to four free colleges to receive their scores.

- What are the resources that are available to improve scores on the PreACT & the ACT?

  - High schools can use PreACT data for academic advising, counseling, and program evaluation. Within each subject area, reporting category scores can help educators assess a student's performance on the topics covered in each test. By looking at the answer distribution data on the Item Response Summary, educators can identify items that are low performing across bands and determine whether more instruction time needs to be spent on specific material.

    - Early Intervention Rosters are available to educators and administrators in four target areas:

      - Students who reported that they do not plan to finish high school or who have no post–high school educational plans

      - Students who earned a PreACT Composite score of 16 or higher but reported that they have no plans to attend college

      - Students who reported that they plan to attend college but earned a PreACT Composite score of 15 or lower or do not plan to take college core coursework

      - Students who expressed a need for help in one or more areas

  - PreACT individual student reports provide students with item-level details so they can review their responses against the scoring key. Schools can keep the PreACT test booklets after the test administration, allowing students to review questions they missed alongside their report and the scoring key. Students also receive an "Ideas for Progress" list, which outlines PreACT reporting categories

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along with corresponding suggestions of specific content within each category that students can concentrate on to improve specific knowledge, skills, and abilities to better prepare for taking the ACT.

o   Students and educators can review a student's PreACT or ACT test scores to determine a strategy for improvement. ACT has free resources available to help guide improvement, such as Ideas for Progress in each subject area to help students increase their score range.

o   Additional Professional Development training and workshop opportunities for educators to gain a better understanding of how to prepare test-takers for the PreACT and ACT can be investigated here.

Should you have any additional questions about the PreACT & the ACT, please contact:

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