The ACT

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Welcome to ACT

Program Introduction

School Year 2024-25

CJ17677

Topics

- The ACT with Writing
- PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure
- Calculator Policy
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The ACT with Writing

All public-school students in grade 11, and grade 12 <u>as required</u>, will participate in The ACT with Writing in spring 2025 unless they take DLM-AA, the state's alternate assessment, instead.

The ACT with Writing is administered online.

Paper testing is available only in rare cases as an accommodation.

Scores from the administration of the ACT with Writing (if taken with ACT Standard Time or ACT-approved accommodations) can be used by students for a variety of purposes including college admission, scholarships, and NCAA eligibility.
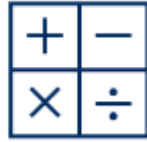
The ACT® with Writing Components

English
Time: 45 minutes
# of Items: 75

- Production of Writing
- Knowledge of Language
- Conventions of Standard English

Mathematics*
Time: 60 minutes
# of Items: 60

- Preparing for Higher Math
  - Number and Quantity
  - Algebra
  - Functions
  - Geometry
  - Statistics and Probability
- Integrating Essential Skills
- Modeling

Reading
Time: 35 minutes
# of Items: 40

- Key ideas and details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of knowledge and ideas

Science*
Time: 35 minutes
# of Items: 40

- Interpretation of Data
- Scientific Investigation
- Evaluation of Models, inferences and experimental results

The times listed are for standard time testing.

*There is a 15-minute break between the Mathematics and Reading components and a 5-minute break before the Writing component.

Writing
(keyboard required)
Time: 40 minutes
# of Items: 1 essay

- Argumentative writing
- ACT Writing Test Scoring Rubric

ACT with Writing
Four Free Score Sends

- Students may request to send data from the spring 2025 ISBE-provided ACT with Writing administration to up to four colleges/scholarship agencies. *Sending scores to colleges/scholarship agencies is optional.*

  o Closer to the test date, ACT will share details about how students may make these selections for free without having to create an optional ACT student account.

  o If students optionally elect to create an ACT student account prior to testing, they can select where to send their scores no later than two days after they complete testing.

- ACT Test Scores: College Codes Lookup: click here.

PreACT Secure

PreACT 9 Secure

- All public-school students in grade 9 will participate in the PreACT 9 Secure unless they take DLM-AA, the state's alternate assessment, instead.

PreACT Secure

- All public-school students in grade 10 will participate in the PreACT Secure unless they take DLM-AA, the state's alternate assessment, instead.

PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure are administered online.
Paper testing is available only in rare cases as an accommodation.

The ACT®

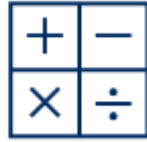# PreACT 9 Secure® and PreACT Secure Components

English
Time: 35 minutes

PreACT 9 Secure # of Items: 44

PreACT Secure # of Items: 48

- Production of Writing
- Knowledge of Language
- Conventions of Standard English

Mathematics*
Time: 45 minutes

PreACT 9 Secure # of Items: 35

PreACT Secure # of Items: 38

- Preparing for Higher Math
  - Number and Quantity
  - Algebra
  - Functions
  - Geometry
  - Statistics and Probability
- Integrating Essential Skills
- Modeling

Reading
Time: 40 minutes

PreACT 9 Secure # of Items: 33

PreACT Secure # of Items: 33

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of knowledge and ideas

Science
Time: 35 minutes

PreACT 9 Secure # of Items: 32

PreACT Secure # of Items: 36

- Interpretation of Data
- Scientific Investigation
- Evaluation of Models, inferences and experimental results

The times listed are for standard time testing.

*There is a 15-minute break between the Mathematics and Reading components.

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Calculator Policy

- Calculator use is allowed only during the mathematics component.

- The online mathematics test includes a built-in Desmos calculator: https://www.desmos.com/assessment-pdfs/ACT_Desmos_Calculator.pdf

- Students may also opt to use a hand-held calculator during the mathematics section, as long as it is permitted by ACT policy: https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ACT-calculator-policy.pdf

Test Event Dates

Please visit the ISBE website:

www.isbe.net/Documents/State-Assessment-Dates-2024-25.pdf

Spring 2025 ACT Test Event Dates

ACT with Writing (grade 11 students; grade 12 as required):

- **Test Event 1:** March 25–28, March 31–April 4, 2025

- **Test Event 2:** April 8–11, April 14–18, 2025

- **Test Event 3:** April 22–25, April 28–May 2, 2025

Please note that each Test Event begins on a Tuesday.

Monday testing **is** available during the second week of each Test Event.

Prior to testing—in ACT Now—schools will be asked to identify one Test Event for initial testing to support the timely receipt of any paper accommodated materials. Testing may be scheduled anytime within the selected Test Event.

If necessary for any reason (e.g., change in testing date, makeup testing, testing transfer students who haven't tested), schools may test in any subsequent Test Event. Students must begin and complete testing during the same Test Event.

Spring 2025 PreACT Test Event Dates

**PreACT 9 Secure
(grade 9 students):**

- Monday, March 17 – Friday, April 25, 2025

Schools may schedule testing on any weekday(s) during the six-week window.

**PreACT Secure
(grade 10 students):**

- Monday, March 17 – Friday, April 25, 2025

Schools may schedule testing on any weekday(s) during the six-week window.

ACT will provide a comprehensive Schedule of Events (SOE) that will detail all activities from school setup to reporting and is scheduled to be posted on the ISBE website by November 15, 2024.

School Setup

- ISBE provides school information to ACT from its Entity Profile System (EPS).

- Anticipated **the week of November 4**, ACT will send an email to the Superintendent, Principal, District Test Coordinator, and High School Test Coordinator listed in EPS to access and create an account in **ACT Now,** the test administration setup application. Designated school staff will then begin setting up for testing. Setup activities include, but are not limited to, selecting the Test Event Dates for ACT with Writing and adding staff contact information.

- Make sure your email system allows the following domains:
  - @operations.act.org
  - @act.org

Staff Training

- In addition to other resources, trainings will be provided as webinar sessions with presented training information, questions submitted via chat, and answers provided via chat and verbally.

- All webinars will be recorded and posted on the ISBE high school website: www.isbe.net/Pages/HS-Assessment.aspx.

Staff Training Webinars

Training Name	Date and Time
The ACT with Writing Accommodations Webinar	Thursday, October 17, 2024 • 3:30–4:30PM
The ACT with Writing Pre-Test Webinar	Wednesday, November 6, 2024 • 3:30–4:30PM
The ACT with Writing Test Day Webinar	Tuesday, January 14, 2025 • 3:30–4:30PM
PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure Pre-Test Webinar	Wednesday, January 22, 2025 • 3:30–5:00PM
Technical Readiness Webinar	Thursday, January 30, 2025 • 3:30–4:30PM
PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure Test Day Webinar	Thursday, February 6, 2025 • 3:30–4:30PM

Registration links on this slide provide webinar content details and intended audience and are also available on www.isbe.net/Pages/HS-Assessment.aspx. After the webinar has concluded, the registration link will serve as a link to an On Demand version of the webinar.

Training and Platform Timeline

September 2024

September 16:
Test Accessibility & Accommodations System (TAA) opens to submit requests for ACT with Writing

October 2024

October 17: ACT with Writing Accommodations webinar

November 2024

Week of November 4: ACT Now opens for the ACT with Writing
November 6: ACT with Writing webinar—Pre-Test Activities

December 2024

Review data on the Pre-ID reports in ISBE's Student Information System (SIS).

January 2025

January 14: ACT with Writing webinar—Test Day Activities
January 15 (no later than): ACT Now opens for PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure
January 22: PreACT 9 Secure & PreACT Secure Webinar—Pre-Test Activities
January 30: ACT with Writing Technical Readiness Webinar

February 2025

February 6: PreACT 9 Secure & PreACT Secure Webinar—Test Day Activities

The ACT

Accommodations and English Learner (EL) Supports

The ACT with Writing*
PreACT 9 Secure
PreACT Secure

Requests are required to be submitted in TAA only for students taking the ACT with Writing.

Accommodations and English Learner (EL) Supports for Illinois Students

- Accommodations for students with disabilities are allowed for the ISBE-Provided PreACT 9 Secure, PreACT Secure, and ACT with Writing only for students with accommodations needs documented in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

- Supports for English Learners (ELs) are allowed for the ISBE-Provided PreACT 9 Secure, PreACT Secure, and ACT with Writing only for students identified as English learners in ISBE's Student Information System.

- Please note: Unlike the ACT with Writing, the use of accommodations and EL supports for the PreACT 9 Secure and the PreACT Secure **do not** require ACT authorization.

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Accommodations for The ACT with Writing

- The ACT **Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA)** System is used to request authorization for accommodations and EL supports for the ACT with Writing.
  - Test Accommodations Coordinators (TACs) will access TAA by creating user accounts at success.act.org.

- Students who have tested with accommodations for ACT National or ACT District testing will **not** need a new request to be submitted on their behalf if nothing additional is needed. However, staff responsible for submitting requests must associate Illinois Spring 2025 to the existing request.

- School administrators should watch for information from ACT and ISBE with direction about when to begin submitting requests for ACT-authorized accommodations.
  - An On Demand version of the ACT with Writing Accommodations Webinar held on October 17, 2024, is available now.
  - The Schedule of Events for the ACT with Writing will be provided by ACT and will include timelines (including deadlines) for managing and requesting ACT-authorized accommodations. This will be posted on the ISBE website by early November 2024.

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Creating an account in TAA

- School staff member(s) who are responsible for requesting accommodations and EL supports should be identified as the test accommodations coordinator (TAC). Schools may have more than one TAC. TACs must create an account in TAA.

- Go to success.act.org. If you do not see the TAA tile, follow these steps to request access.
  - Select the **Manage My Access** button.
  - Select **Request More Access** from the dropdown menu.
  - Begin typing the name of your organization in the field provided. When you see your school name/address, select it from the list.
  - Select the **Submit** button.
  - Select **Test Accommodations**.
    IMPORTANT: *If you do not select the Test Accommodations role, your access request will not be submitted properly.*
  - Select **Request Access**.

- You will receive an email from ACT notifying you that you have been granted access within 3-5 business days, although confirmation can happen faster.

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Accommodation Resources

- ACT Accessibility Supports Guide

  The *Accessibility Supports Guide* helps educational teams select appropriate accessibility supports and accommodations for their students for use during the test. *Accessibility supports* refer to systems, tools, and accommodations that remove barriers for the entire testing population, including examinees identified as having disabilities and English learners (ELs), as well as examinees who do not have a disability. All examinees need to be able to communicate fairly and effectively what they know and can do when they take a test. ACT provides accessibility supports that include the following:

  - o Universal supports
  - o Designated supports
  - o English learner supports
  - o Accommodations

- Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) User Guide

  Staff will use TAA to request examinees' accommodations and/or English Learner (EL) supports and receive Decision Notifications.

- *Preparing for the ACT® Test: Testing with Alternate Formats*

  Preparing for the ACT® Test: Testing with Alternate Formats includes information about preparing for the ACT test with ACT-authorized alternate format accommodations, information about the multiple-choice and writing sections, test-taking strategies, and what to expect on test day.

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Consent to Release Information to ACT

- The *Consent to Release Information to ACT* form is required when submitting requests for accommodations or EL supports for the ACT with Writing.

- The form is available in multiple languages: [Consent to Release Information to ACT](#)

*Note: This form is **not required** for students who will take PreACT 9 Secure or PreACT Secure.*

PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure Accommodations and English Learner (EL) Supports

- Testing staff will assign accommodations and English learner supports in ACT Now – no ACT Authorization is required in order for these accommodations to be applied to students' tests.
  - ACT's TAA System is **not** used for PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure.
  - Accommodations and supports should align with student accommodations/supports plans.
  - The Schedule of Events will provide timeframes for when to assign accommodations.

- An updated *Accessibility Supports Guide* will be available no later than January 15, 2025, for spring 2025 testing. This guide will cover the types of accommodations and supports available for the PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure.
  - The supports listed in the current PreACT Secure Accessibility Supports Guide will be available in spring 2025.

ACT Now and
Test Center Manager (TCM)
Overview

What are ACT Now and Test Center Manager (TCM)?

- **ACT Now** is the application used by districts and schools to manage organizations, users, and students.

- **Test Center Manager (TCM)** is the application that testing staff will use to manage test center information and administer The ACT with Writing, PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure. The TCM application streamlines test day activities, simplifies staff training, and provides data to ACT in real time.

  - Using TCM, **test coordinators** will:
    - Build virtual rooms for student testing.
    - Oversee test center activities during a test event.
  - Using TCM, **room supervisors** will:
    - Read verbal instructions.
    - Complete room seating charts.
    - Monitor the timing of the tests.
    - Log irregularities on test day.

Terms to Know

- **ACT Now:** The website used to manage organizations, users, and students.

- **Test Center Manager (TCM):** The application that testing staff will use to manage test center information and administer The ACT with Writing, PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure. Users launch TCM via their ACT Now accounts.

- **TAA:** Test Accessibility and Accommodations System—used to request authorization for accommodations for The ACT with Writing.

- **Test Event:** All testing activities related to a testing window.

Terms to Know

- **Users and Roles**
  - **District Test Coordinator:** District-level oversight
  - **School Test Coordinator:** School-level oversight—manages students and test event staff in ACT Now, plus all test event details in TCM
  - **Test Accommodations Coordinator:** Responsible for managing student accommodations on behalf of students in ACT Now and TCM
  - **Test Event Staff:** Room supervisors, room proctors, and roving proctors

Note: Users will be invited to ACT Now either by the state or by their district or school. When users are invited, they will receive an email asking them to create their account. Users access TCM after they create their ACT Now account by navigating to TCM from ACT Now.

Administration activities—including inviting users—will begin:

The ACT with Writing: early November

PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure: mid-January

Assigning Roles

- Superintendents and Principals will both receive the District Test Coordinator role to appoint School Test Coordinators, since roles cannot be assigned laterally. *Note that Principals will have access only to their school-level information.*

- ISBE has added two new contact types in its Entity Profile System (EPS) to facilitate assigning additional individual(s) to the roles of District Test Coordinator and High School Test Coordinator. ISBE will transmit these contacts to ACT on a regular basis.

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TestNav Overview

Students will use TestNav to take the ACT with Writing, PreACT Secure, and PreACT 9 Secure.

New Version of TestNav

- TestNav app version 1.13.x is required. If you don't currently have this version, you will receive an error message.

- Latest version of TestNav: https://download.testnav.com/

- For more information regarding technical readiness, please check out the Technical Guide for Online Testing: https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/secured/documents/ACT-SD-Tech-Guide-for-Online-Testing.pdf

TestNav Hardware Recommendations

Supported Devices:

- Windows: desktop and laptop
- MacOS: desktop and laptop
- iOS: iPads
- Chromebook

Processor:

- Windows: x64 – AMD, ARM, ARM64 or Intel-based
- MacOS: x64 – AMD, ARM, ARM64 or Intel-based
- ChromeOS: Any
- iPad: Any

Memory:

- 2GB RAM Minimum; 4GB RAM Recommended (1GB Minimum RAM for iPads)

Screen Size:

- 9.5 inch Minimum

Screen Resolution:

- 1024x768

Other Notes:

- *External keyboard and mouse for touchscreen devices are recommended (keyboard is required for The ACT with Writing).*
- *Wired hardware is recommended.*
- *Local File access to home directory is required for Windows and Macs.*
- *Chromebooks must be in kiosk mode.*
- *Convertible Chromebooks cannot be used in tablet mode as a touchscreen device.*

TestNav Software Requirements

Operating System:

- Chrome OS:
  - Stable Channel (S) – 124+
  - Long-Term Support (LTS) – 120+
- MacOS: 13, 14
- iOS: 16.x, 17.3
- Windows:
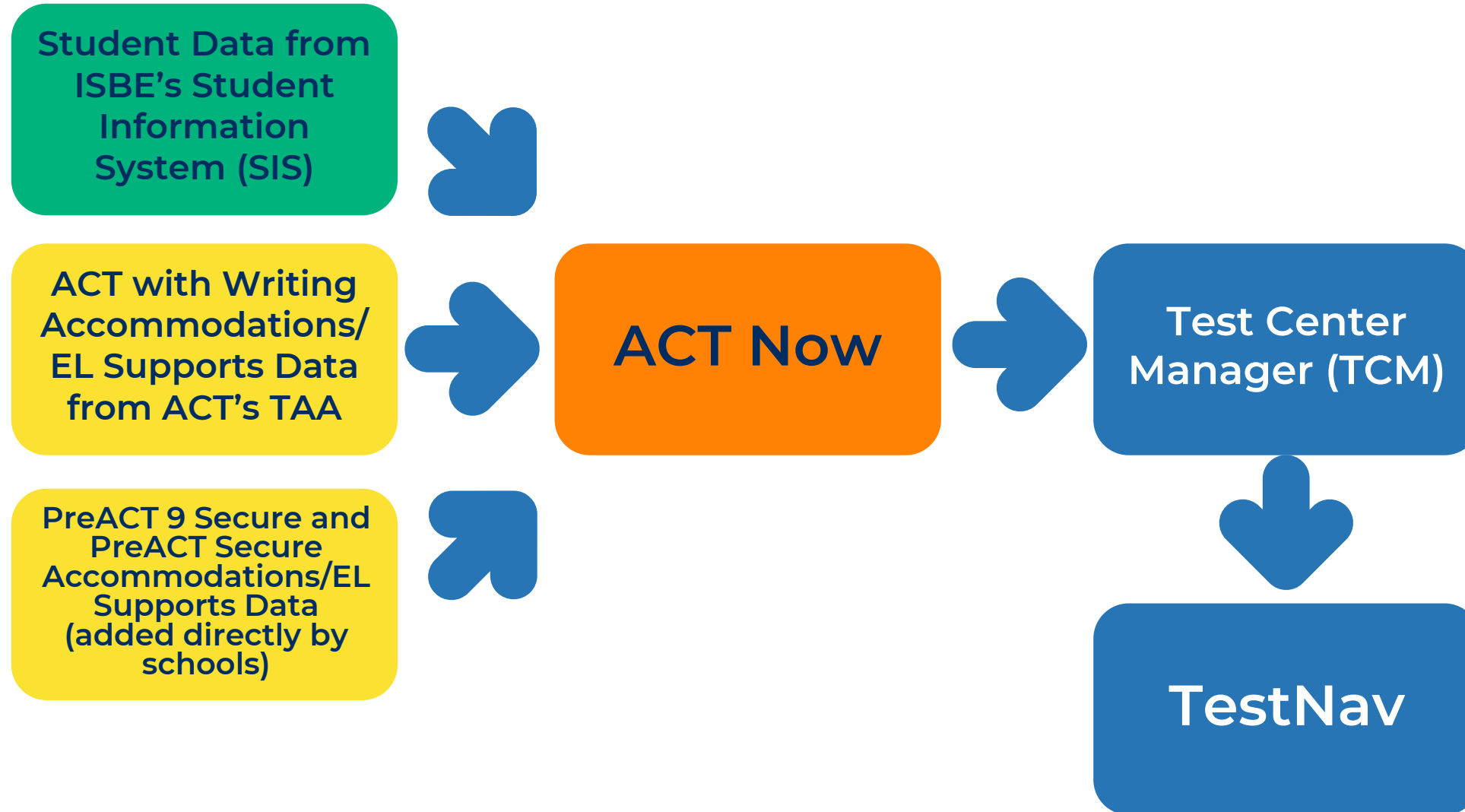 - 10 x 64 - 21H2, 22H2
  - 11 x 64 - 21H2, 22H2

Exempt list URLs:

- *.testnav.com
- *.act.org
- *.pearsontestcontent.com
- *.thawte.com
- *.usertrust.com
- *.comodoca.com
- *.googleanalytics.com
- https://dictionaryapi.com
- https://www.dictionaryapi.com
- https://media.merriam-webster.com

Port:

- 80
- 443

Systems Overview

Student Data from ISBE's Student Information System (SIS)

ACT with Writing Accommodations/ EL Supports Data from ACT's TAA

PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure Accommodations/EL Supports Data (added directly by schools)

ACT Now

Test Center Manager (TCM)

TestNav

Student Resources

Links to free resources to prepare students for testing are available at https://www.isbe.net/Pages/HS-Assessment.aspx under **Practice Resources**. The following resources are currently available:

- Preparing for the ACT Test

- Preparing for the ACT Test: Testing with Alternate Formats

- Preparing for the ACT Test Taken Online

- The ACT with Writing Online Practice Test
    - IMPORTANT: Click on "Practice Tests" once you have navigated to the TestNav sign on page. No log in credentials are needed.

- Alternate Format Practice Tests

Reporting

Reporting Schedule

The ACT with Writing

Approximately five to eight weeks after testing, the following reports will be provided online through ACT's reporting portal:

- Student Score Reports – available online

- Student Score Reports – printed and shipped to schools

- High School Report
  - High School Checklist Report

- Student Score Labels

- Student College Report

PreACT 9 Secure & PreACT Secure

Approximately 10 business days after testing, the following reports will be provided online through ACT's reporting portal:

- Student Score Reports – available online (Schools may download and print)

- Online aggregate reports and data file

As in past years, data are scheduled to be posted in ISBE's Student Information System (SIS) in mid-July 2025.

The ACT

Contact Information

Illinois State Board of Education

Email: assessment@isbe.net

Phone: 866-317-6034

Website: www.isbe.net/Pages/HS-Assessment.aspx

ACT
Email: statetesting@act.org
Phone: 800-553-6244 ext. 2800 option 4

ACT Accommodations
Email: actstateaccoms@act.org
Phone: 800-553-6244 ext. 1788