

2014-15 ISBE-Funded ACT® Plus Writing and ACT WorkKeys® Assessments

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 01/14/15

1. **Question: Which ACT assessments are being funded by ISBE in 2014-15?**

Answer: ISBE is funding district-administered ACT Plus Writing and ACT WorkKeys (*Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information*) for districts choosing to participate. These are the only ACT assessments funded by ISBE in 2014-15. Please note that although ACT's [EXPLORE](#) and [PLAN](#) assessments were previously funded by ISBE, these are no longer available, per ACT.

2. **Question: What are the state testing dates for the ACT Plus Writing?**

Answer: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 (initial standard-time testing)
Tuesday, March 17, 2015 (makeup standard-time testing)
March 3-17, 2015 (accommodations window)

3. **Question: What are the state testing dates for the three ACT WorkKeys assessments?**

Answer: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 (initial standard-time testing)
Wednesday, March 18, 2015 (makeup standard-time testing)
March 4-18, 2015 (accommodations window)

4. **Question: Who is eligible to test?**

Answer: Only students enrolled in a high school program operated by a public school district and classified at the time of testing as being in grade 11 may test.

5. **Question: Is the administration of ACT Plus Writing and ACT WorkKeys required?**

Answer: No. Home School Districts must determine to what extent they will participate in ACT Plus Writing and/or ACT WorkKeys.

6. **Question: Must all grade 11 students in a district participate in ACT Plus Writing if the district chooses to participate?**

Answer: Yes. If a district chooses to participate in ACT Plus Writing, all grade 11 students whose home school is identified as being in that district are expected to participate. However, students who are not eligible for or denied ACT-Approved accommodations may choose not to test or may choose to test with no accommodations. State-Allowed accommodations are not available for this administration since they do not result in college-reportable scores.

7. **Question: Must all grade 11 students in a district participate in ACT WorkKeys if the district chooses to participate?**

Answer: No. If a district chooses to participate in ACT WorkKeys, districts may identify participation at a school level. All grade 11 students whose home school is identified as a participating school are expected to participate. However, students who would test with accommodations that would prohibit eligibility for ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate™ (NCRC) may choose not to test or may choose to test with no accommodations.

8. **Please see #20 for an update.**

~~**Question: How may serving schools participate?**~~

~~**Answer:** Serving schools must be directed by the home school district of each enrolled grade 11 student they serve to determine whom to test with ACT Plus Writing and/or ACT WorkKeys. The participation, or not, of all grade 11 students is directed by the students' home school district.~~

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9. **Question: Must the assessments be given in school?**

Answer: Yes, unless schools have applied for and been approved by ACT in advance for off-site testing. Off-site proposals are due to ACT no later than January 9, 2015.

10. **Question: May a district test all standard time testers on the makeup dates?**

Answer: Yes, but this is not advised, as there is no makeup date for the makeup date.

11. **Question: Will students who take the three ACT WorkKeys assessments be eligible to earn ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate™ (NCRC)?**

Answer: Yes. Students who earn a minimum score of Level 3 on each of the three WorkKeys assessments qualify for the receipt of ACT's NCRC. More information about the NCRC is available online at <http://www.act.org/products/workforce-act-national-career-readiness-certificate/>.

12. **Question: Will NCRC data be available via ISBE's Student Information System (SIS)?**

Answer: Yes. NCRC school and district rosters and 2-page individual student certificates will be available for printing via ISBE's SIS.

13. **Question: What is the application deadline for ACT-Approved Accommodations for the ACT Plus Writing?**

Answer: ACT-Approved accommodations are due to ACT no later than November 21, 2014. Please refer to the [Checklist of Dates](#) for all deadlines.

14. **Question: Will Pre-ID labels be available?**

Answer: Yes. Grade 11 student data for Pre-ID labels will be pulled automatically for participating districts on December 12, 2014, and sent to ACT for label production. Home School Districts must verify the accuracy of all data, including the Testing School field. The Testing School field will default to the Serving School, and this is what informs ACT which school receives the label. Labels will be printed for and shipped only to established ACT test sites.

15. **Question: May students without a Pre-ID label test?**

Answer: Yes. All students enrolled as grade 11 at the time of testing and whose home district has chosen to participate in ACT Plus Writing and/or ACT WorkKeys may test, as directed by the home school district. Identifying information for those who do not have a Pre-ID label must be manually gridded on the answer document(s), as directed in the Administration Manual(s).

16. **Do colleges and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) accept ACT scores from this ISBE-funded administration?**

Answer: Yes. Colleges and universities throughout the United States and ISAC have indicated their willingness to use college-reportable ACT scores from state testing.

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17. Does the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) accept ACT scores from this ISBE-funded administration?

Answer: Yes. In 2006, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) implemented rules changes that allow the use of state college-reportable ACT scores in determining initial eligibility for participation in Division I and Division II sports. As a result, students entering college on or after August 1, 2006, can use state college-reportable ACT scores for both Division I and Division II initial eligibility. Questions may be directed to the NCAA Eligibility Center at 877.262.1492.

18. May grade 11 students for whom the DLM-AA is the appropriate accountability test participate in ACT Plus Writing and/or WorkKeys if their district is participating?

Answer: Yes, as determined by the appropriate school-based team.

19. Is ACT Online Prep available for the 2014-15 school year?

Answer: Yes. Contact ACT at 1-800-498-6065 for more information.

Note: The phone number in this answer was updated on 10/16/14.

20. The answer for #8 has been updated for clarification.

Question: How may serving schools participate?

Answer: Home and serving institutions must work collaboratively to identify which grade 11 students will participate in the ACT Plus Writing and/or ACT WorkKeys and the appropriate testing location for the individual. Serving schools must establish as test sites to accommodate testers if the serving school is determined to be the appropriate testing location.

21. Where can I find more information about the ACT Online Prep for the 2014-15 school year?

Answer: Please see <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/actonlineprep.htm>.

22. Are students who are not testing expected to be in attendance on days when the ACT Plus Writing and/or ACT WorkKeys tests are administered?

Answer (Updated 01/14/2015): The ACT Plus Writing and ACT WorkKeys are not required state assessments, therefore Section 18-8.05 (F)(2)(i) of the Illinois School Code does not apply. If a district desires to excuse any non-testing students from attending school for the purpose of administering the ACT Plus Writing and/or ACT WorkKeys to grade 11 students, the district needs to apply for a modification to the School Code. To submit a waiver for consideration, please see the information posted on the waiver process at: <http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm>. The waiver application form is available on that website; the direct link is here: http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/pdf/33-77_waiver_application.pdf. The process of applying for a waiver involves several forms of advance notification and a hearing before the local board of education. Questions should be addressed to Winnie Tuthill, Rules and Waivers, at (217) 782-5270 or by email to: wtuthill@isbe.net.

23. Question: May English Learners (ELs) take the ACT Plus Writing with accommodations?

Answer: Accommodations for the ACT Plus Writing are available only for students with disabilities documented in a current Individualized Education Program (IEP), 504 Plan, official accommodations plan, or exceptions statement, and services provided following the accommodations plan address more than English proficiency. State-Allowed accommodations are **not** available for this administration since they do not result in college-reportable scores. Therefore, accommodations may not be provided for students based solely on EL status.