

The ACT Test is Evolving

A K-12 Educator's Guide to the Changes Coming to ACT[®] National, International, and State and District Testing

ACT wants students to:

- Perform their best on test day.
- Have the flexibility and choice to determine how they will test.
- Demonstrate their true capabilities and potential, always.
- Tailor their testing experience to fit their future goals and highlight their strengths.

ACT is committed to continuous test improvements and innovations to showcase student success for college and career.

Here's a quick comparison of what's changing and what's remaining the same on the enhanced ACT.

What's Changing?

- We've reduced the number of questions overall (there are 44 fewer questions, to be exact).
- We've reduced the test length. Students can receive their college-reportable Composite score after 125 minutes of testing, rather than up to 195.
- Students get more time per question.
- We've reduced the number of answer choices in math questions from five to four.
- Students can now choose to take the ACT National Saturday test with or without the science section. State and district customers will choose whether to include the science section with the ACT test for their students.

What's Not Changing?

- The ACT scale will remain 1-36 with no changes to ACT benchmarks or state-specific achievement standards.
- Scores from tests taken prior to the rollout of the new Composite score will not change.
- Ability to predict success in first-year college credit-bearing courses will not change.
- Both paper-and-pencil and online test options will continue to be available.

Changes to the ACT test will affect ACT National Saturday testing, ACT International testing, and ACT State and District testing administrations. These changes will be introduced to each administration according to the following schedule.

APRIL 2025

ACT Online National Saturday Test Only

SEPTEMBER 2025

ACT Paper National Saturday Test
Updated Composite Score for All ACT Tests

SPRING 2026

ACT State & District Testing
ACT International

Enhanced ACT Test Flexible Administration Policy for States and Districts

Starting in spring 2026 for ACT State and District testing, while English, math, and reading must be completed in one sitting, flexible ACT testing policies allow breaks before science and/or writing, helping students recharge and perform their best.

Scores Reported on the ACT Starting April 2025

Beginning with the April 2025 Online National Saturday test, the ACT Composite score will be based on performance on the English, math, and reading sections. Students will still have the option to take all five sections previously offered, including science and writing, allowing for a more tailored testing experience. Those who opt to take the science section will also receive a STEM score, and those who choose to take the writing section will also receive an ELA score (all section scores will still be provided).

When students take:

The ACT Test (English, Math, and Reading sections)

The ACT Test with Science

The ACT Test with Writing

The ACT Test with Science and Writing

They will receive:

Composite Score

Composite and STEM Scores

Composite and ELA Scores

Composite, STEM, and ELA Scores

In September 2025:

The new ACT Composite score calculation will be used for all students (all National, International, and State and District contract students).

This change ensures that higher education institutions receive consistent Composite scores from September 2025 onward.

Students who take the science section will receive individual science section scores and a STEM score (if they completed math).

ACT will not change how we send information to higher education institutions.

Will ACT Still Provide a Superscore? How Will It Work?

What is an ACT Superscore? A superscore is the average of a student's best scores from each section from multiple test attempts.

Starting in April 2025, students choosing to take the Online National Saturday test will have their ACT Superscore calculated using their English, math, and reading scores.

For all other students, this transition to the English/math/reading calculation will take place in September 2025.

A student's superscore can be calculated from section scores from test events before and after the transition to the new Composite. If a student takes a test after September 2025, their superscore will be based on their English, math, and reading performance (if no tests are taken after September 2025, the last calculated superscore, based on English, math, reading, and science, will continue to be available). ACT will still report the highest score for each section with the test date, but the reported superscore will now be based on a simplified calculation of English, math, and reading scores.

For full details and the supporting evidence,
[visit act.org/enhancementsK12](http://act.org/enhancementsK12)

