Friday Focus Webinar - Statewide High School Assessments
9/24/21 Webinar Chat Questions

1. **ACT will be hosting webinars specifically for Arizona test coordinators. When will these webinars be held and how do test coordinators register to attend them?** The schedule of ACT-hosted webinars and registration links are included below. This information is also available in the [ACT Schedule of Events](), posted on the [ACT-hosted website]() for Arizona. Each webinar will be recorded.

   Test Administration Part 1: November 3, 2021, 9:00-10:00am
   Registration Link
   Accommodations: November 10, 2021, 9:00-10:00am
   Registration Link
   Test Administration Part 2: February 2, 2022, 9:00-10:00am
   Registration Link

2. **How do districts or schools indicate the ACT test window selected?** ACT's PearsonAccess^{next} (PAN) platform will open for DTCs on November 1, 2021. At that time, DTCs will be asked to select test dates in PAN, indicate online vs. paper testing, and select the preferred materials delivery date.
   When must this be completed? This task must be completed November 1-December 3, 2021 in ACT's PAN platform.

3. **Can districts administer the ACT during both test windows?** Districts need to select one of the ACT test windows (listed below) in which to complete all ACT testing of cohort 2023 students. In each test window, there is one standard paper test date and six standard online test dates. If online testing is selected, districts may schedule testing as needed, including any makeup testing, across those six dates. If paper testing is selected, districts will have the one paper test date to administer the ACT on paper and may use any of the remaining online test dates within the same test window to complete any makeup testing.

Test Window
Standard Administration (Paper): March 1, 2022
Accommodations Administration (Paper): March 1-4 & March 7-11
Standard & ACT-Authorized Accommodations Online): March 1-3 & March 8-10

Test Window
Standard Administration (Paper): April 5, 2022
Accommodations Administration (Paper): April 5-8 & April 11-15
Standard & ACT-Authorized Accommodations (Online): April 5-7 & April 12-14

4. **If a student misses the paper test date, can they then take the ACT online?** Yes, as mentioned above, paper-based testing schools may utilize the remaining online test dates within the same window to administer online makeup testing to any students who missed the paper test date.

5. **Is there makeup testing for ACT?** Districts will select one of the ACT test windows in which to complete all ACT testing, including any makeup testing as described above.

6. **How do districts or schools indicate the date(s) they will administer the ACT Aspire?** ACT Aspire will be administered within the ACT Aspire test window (included below); however, DTCs will not need to indicate the school/district testing dates for ACT Aspire within PAN.

    ACT Aspire Computer-Based Test Window: April 4-29, 2022
    ACT Aspire Paper-Based Test Window: April 4-13, 2022

7. **What are the content sections of ACT Aspire, and what are the time limits for standard administration of each section?** The following graphic shows the ACT Aspire content sections and time allotted for each. Multiple ACT Aspire test sections may be administered in one day, or they may be spread out over multiple days. However, once a test section is begun, it must be completed on the day it was started in the time limit shown below.

    ACT Aspire:

Summative Timing in Minutes

Grade	English	Math	Reading	Science	Writing
Early HS	45	75	65	60	40

8. **What are the content sections of the ACT, and what are the time limits for standard administration of each section?** The ACT content sections are as follows and must be administered in the order listed: Test 1 – English (first), Test 2 – Mathematics (second), Test 3 – Reading (third), Test 4 – Science (fourth), and Test 5 – Writing (last). The ACT Writing test is always administered last. If this order is altered, tests will not be scored.

    ACT:

Authorized Timing	Time Allowed Test 1	Time Allowed Test 2	Time Allowed Test 3	Time Allowed Test 4	Time Allowed Writing
Standard time, single day	45 minutes	60 minutes	35 minutes	35 minutes	40 minutes

The ACT Components

English

Usage/Mechanics:
- Punctuation
- Grammar and Usage
- Sentence Structure

Rhetorical Skills:
- Strategy
- Organization
- Style

Time (mins) 45
# of items 75

Mathematics

- Pre-Algebra
- Elementary Algebra
- Intermediate Algebra
- Coordinate Geometry
- Plan Geometry
- Trigonometry

Time (mins) 60
# of items 60

Reading

- Literary Narrative or Prose Fiction
- Humanities
- Social Studies
- Natural Sciences

Time (mins) 35
# of items 40

Science

- Biology
- Earth/Space Sciences
- Chemistry
- Physics Date Representation
- Research Summaries
- Conflicting viewpoints
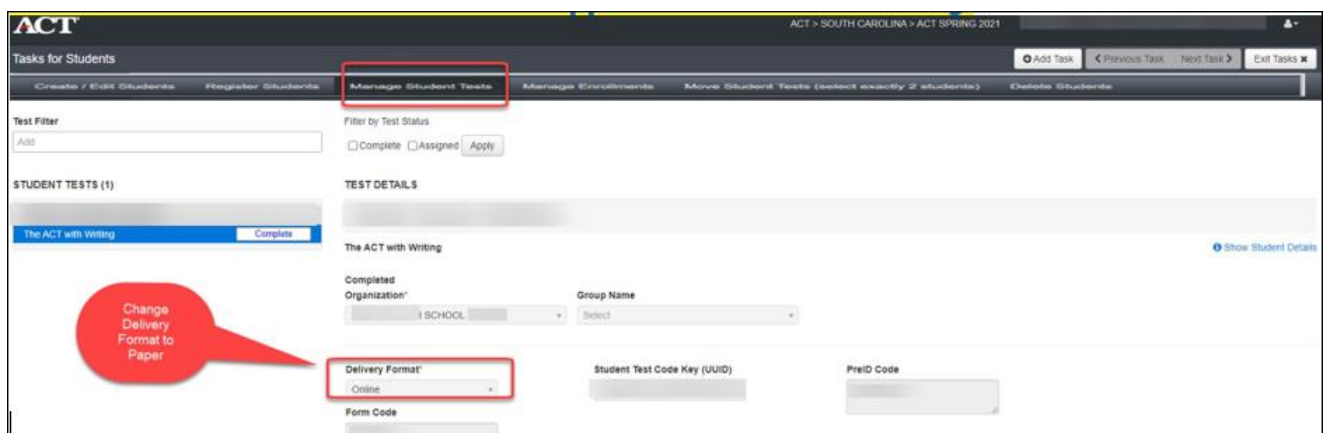
Time (mins) 35
# of items 40

Writing

Argumentative writing

Time (mins) 40
# of items 1

9. **When administering the ACT, what time must testing begin?** It is recommended by ACT that verbal instructions start no later than 9:00am in all rooms to ensure adequate testing time. If you are unable to begin before 9:00am, but you **can** begin before 10:30am, you may test as planned but must submit an ACT Irregularity Report that includes the reason for the late start. This applies to both online and paper ACT testing.

10. **How much time do we need to set aside for administering the ACT?** ACT recommends 30 minutes to complete the non-test portion in MyACT and approximately 4 hours to check students in and complete testing.

11. **Will the writing portion be included in the statewide administration of the ACT?** Yes, the Writing section will be included. **ACT Aspire?** Yes, the ACT Aspire test will also include a Writing section.

12. **Will headphones be needed when taking the ACT and/or ACT Aspire? Will microphones be needed?** No, unless required for an approved accommodation, such as audio presentation of items via text-to-speech.

13. **How do districts or schools indicate paper or online testing for ACT and/or ACT Aspire?** ADE's Achievement Testing Mode application was open in ADEConnect September 20, 2021 – October 15, 2021 for Achievement District Test Coordinators (DTCs) to request paper testing. Additionally, for ACT, District Test Coordinators will indicate in PearsonAccess^next the mode for testing.

14. **Within a district, can some schools select paper testing while others select online testing?** Yes, paper testing is requested at the school level for both ACT and ACT Aspire.

15. **Will paper test deliveries come from ACT? Will they be delivered to the schools or to the district?** Yes, any paper tests will be sent by ACT to districts.

16. **If a school is testing online, can we request paper tests for SPED and EL students as accommodations?** Schools may administer tests in both formats. If a student requires paper testing for an accommodation to be given, ACT will adjust the student delivery format. Test Coordinators may also adjust student delivery formats for students with or without accommodations and supports via Testadmin.act.org.

17. **Is the same PearsonAccess^next format being used for AzSCI, AASA, ACT, and ACT Aspire?** PearsonAccess^next (PAN) is being used for all the statewide achievement tests, and the format will be very

similar across all these tests. However, there will be three separate PAN websites, each with a separate login – one for ACT, another for ACT Aspire, and a third for AASA and AzSCI.

18. **How do District Test Coordinators receive access to PAN?** On November 1, 2021, DTCs will receive an automated email granting access to ACT's PAN system. Access to the PAN system for ACT Aspire will come later, on January 24, 2022, also via an automated email.

19. **Will the state be completing student uploads by cohort?** Yes, ADE will upload students by cohort to PAN for both ACT (cohort 2023) and ACT Aspire (cohort 2025). Following ADE's upload of students, schools/districts will need to check that all eligible students have been uploaded and will need to add any students who were not uploaded, as needed, prior to testing.

20. **Will there be a crosswalk document showing alignment between the ACT and Arizona standards?** ADE is working with ACT to develop a crosswalk between the ACT and Arizona Standards. Additionally, ADE is conducting an independently alignment study - this study will determine the degree of alignment of the ACT Test and ADE's High School Academic Content Standards for ELA and Math.

21. **If a student has an extended time accommodation on an IEP or 504, will that be honored on the ACT and/or ACT Aspire?** It is important that if this accommodation is needed, it is documented and used routinely for instruction. Extended time accommodations for ACT will have to be submitted and approved using ACT's Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) system. For ACT Aspire, please refer to the [ACT Aspire Accessibility Supports Guide](#), page 20, for more information about extended time. The Personal Needs Profile Selection will be utilized for ACT Aspire extended time accommodations.

22. **What is the deadline to submit accommodations requests to ACT?** The deadline to submit ACT accommodations requests is **January 7, 2022**. ACT accommodations requests must be submitted through ACT's Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) system. More information can be found on the [ACT-hosted website](#), under Step 3: Accommodation.

23. **Does ACT require that parents sign a document allowing districts to share IEP/504/EL information when requesting accommodations from ACT? (*Revised 11-15-21*)** Yes, ACT has provided a [Consent to Release Information](#) form on their website. This form should be signed by parents and kept on file at the school.

24. **Are all students required to register with MyACT?** Students who take the ACT are not required to register with MyACT; however, this is strongly encouraged. MyACT is the only platform for students to submit non-test information, and non-test information cannot be submitted via paper. ACT has prepared a [MyACT Resource](#) document to assist schools with the process. Through MyACT, students may select up to four colleges to send their score reports to for free. Students will also generally receive their score reports in MyACT 11-14 days faster than those who do not register in MyACT and must wait for their paper score report.

25. **Is MyACT available for ACT Aspire as well?** No, MyACT is only for the ACT test.

26. **Are Test Administrators required to complete a certification course to administer the ACT?** ACT does not have this requirement in order to have access to PAN. However, District Test Coordinators must use materials and manuals provided by ACT to ensure Test Administrators are prepared for testing. District Test Coordinators and School Test Coordinators should attend the ACT-hosted webinars or view the recordings of these webinars prior to training staff.

27. **Will the state provide funding for those who want to pursue the ACT Certified Educator training?** No, ADE is not able to provide funding for those who want to pursue ACT Certified training. This is not required by ACT/Pearson to administer or proctor ADE's Statewide ACT or ACT Aspire Assessments.

28. **Will ACT be decreasing the amount of waivers they are allowing for "fee waiver vouchers" now that ACT is our statewide assessment?** No, the two programs are independent of each other.

29. **Will Arizona schools have access to an ACT/ACT Aspire help desk or representative?** There is designated staff to handle state testing calls specifically. These numbers are included on the ACT-hosted website for Arizona under "Contact Information" and are listed below.
    ACT: 800-553-6244, Ext. 2800
    ACT Aspire: 855-730-0400

30. **What study resources are available for ACT Aspire?** ACT Aspire has developed two resources designed to help students, parents, educators, and policymakers become familiar with ACT Aspire test presentation and content. These resources, the Student Sandbox and the Exemplar Test Question Booklets, illustrate the different types of test questions and formats found in both paper-based and computer-based testing modes. Users may also interact with TestNav tools and functionality by using the TestNav8 Tutorial. Links to each of these resources are located on our Achievement DTC webpage and our Educator Resources webpage, under "ACT Aspire Resources."

    Student Sandbox: The Student Sandbox provides students an opportunity to become familiar not only with ACT Aspire test questions, but also with navigating the TestNav test platform. The Student Sandbox should be accessed with a desktop or laptop computer rather than a tablet or smartphone.

    Exemplar Items: ACT Aspire has developed a booklet for each grade and subject that defines ACT Aspire reporting categories for each test. These booklets present at least one test question aligned to each of the reporting categories on a given test. Depth of Knowledge level (DOK), a description of the task presented by the test question, and a description of the correct response are also provided, along with Improvement Idea Statements to help students build on their current level of skill and knowledge.

    TestNav 8 Tutorial: The TestNav 8 Tutorial allows students to move through the test using the different buttons and screens. It also shows them how to use the support tools in the test and practice with them.

31. **Will schools and districts have access to a mock administration for ACT Aspire and/or for ACT?** There will not be a mock administration for ACT Aspire. We have had schools inadvertently log into the mock sites during the operational test windows, thinking they were logging into the actual test. There are other resources and supports to facilitate experiences with testing, including the ACT resources provided above. For ACT, mock administration and practice will be available via training.act.org, as there are additional ACT safeguards in place to prevent the mock administration from being mistaken for logging into the actual test. Please see the ACT Schedule of Events for the timeframe when this site is available.

32. **Are there ACT rubrics or anchor papers available?** Please see the ACT Technical Manual for more information.

33. **If a school would like to administer the ACT to 10th graders or 12th graders, is that possible?** The statewide administration of ACT is to Cohort 2023 students (typically 11th graders) only. However, districts may set up a district testing contract with ACT to administer the ACT test to students in 10th grade and/or

12th grade. If you would like more information, please contact us at Testing@azed.gov, and we can provide the appropriate ACT contact person to assist you with setting up a district testing contract.

34. **Are Pre-ACT and ACT Aspire the same thing?** No, the two assessments are not the same thing. ACT Aspire is a secure summative assessment that may be used as part of state and federal accountability system. Online and paper formats are available as well as a Writing section of the test. Pre-ACT is a non-secure, paper-based, multiple-choice only assessment.

35. **When will ACT and ACT Aspire test results be available after testing?** The final dates are still being determined, but Arizona has a state law that results be reported by May 25.

36. **Where can we find information regarding cut scores and proficiency levels for ACT and ACT Aspire?** For ACT, ADE published [Cut Scores for ACT and SAT](#) in 2019. For ACT Aspire, cut scores for State Accountability have not yet been determined. This is pending additional guidance from ADE and the State Board.

37. **Why are we administering three Science tests in high school – AzSCI, ACT Aspire, and ACT?** As ACT and ACT Aspire are off-the-shelf assessments and include Science as part of the composite scores, there is not the option to remove this from the assessments. AzSCI is aligned to Arizona's Science Standards.

38. **Which Science test will count in accountability formulas?** At this time, no final determination has been made by the State Board. ADE's Accountability is working collaboratively with the State Board and the Advisory Committees.

39. **If a student has taken the ACT on their own, separate from the statewide administration, which score will be included in accountability (the highest score or the score from the statewide administration)?** The score that will be utilized will be the score from the Statewide Testing Dates only.

40. **Do we know how growth will be calculated for accountability this year? Will it be from AzM2 to ACT?** At this time, no final determination has been made by the State Board. ADE's Accountability is working collaboratively with the State Board and the Advisory Committees.

Webinar Information

How do I view this recorded webinar? If I attended the live event, how do I obtain a professional development certificate?
The recorded webinar and the PowerPoint slides are posted on the Assessment section website at https://www.azed.gov/assessment under the "Friday Focus Webinars 2021-2022" dropdown. If you attended the live webinar, you can access your certificate through your account in the Event Management System, where you registered for this event.