



ACT State and District Testing Score Comparability

How is the ACT® test administered through the ACT State and District testing program identical to the tests offered on ACT national test dates and how are they different?

The ACT test forms used for the state-mandated in-school testing are secure test forms that are equivalent to forms used on national test dates. In addition, the test administration procedures (e.g., established test date, standard time limits, facilities requirements, secure tracking of test materials, testing staff qualifications) are equivalent to ACT national test date procedures.

All high schools participating in state testing must agree to comply with all of ACT's "Standard Testing Requirements", which are identical to—or, in some cases, more stringent than—requirements for national testing. Prior to testing, ACT ensures that the lead testing staff at every school have been trained by attending an ACT-sponsored workshop. Of note, many of these testing staff also serve as administrators for national testing.

ACT staff routinely conduct in-person unannounced audits of selected state testing test sites on the test day, as we do for national test dates. In addition, all schools are required to submit the same documentation of test day procedures that are required from national test centers (e.g., rosters of attendance, seating diagrams, irregularity reports, etc.). Our experience with ACT state testing shows that the number and types of irregularities experienced during state testing are very similar to those that occur on ACT national test dates.

The primary differences are that the statewide tests are administered on a school day, students are *required* to test, students complete the non-test information in school prior to the test day in lieu of registering directly with ACT, the state or district pays the fee for testing, and the scores are reported as "state" rather than "national."

How does ACT use the results from state testing? Are these scores considered equivalent to national test results?

ACT scores achieved through state-mandated in-school administrations are reliable, and we support their use as official test scores for normal admission, placement, and scholarship decisions. ACT scores achieved through state testing are being used by numerous states for awarding state scholarships, by the NCAA for initial eligibility, and by colleges and universities throughout the nation.

ACT includes state testing results on our database of official ACT scores. Furthermore, ACT includes state testing scores – along with national test scores – in our high school graduating class file to report annual national and state-by-state results. We also include state testing scores – along with national test scores – in the population of scores from the past three test years to form the comparison group reported on all ACT score reports as "national norms."