

ACT Guidance for Tennessee Districts and Schools

Revised April 3

The department is working closely with ACT, Inc. to ensure that all students in the 2021 cohort have two opportunities to take the ACT, same as prior cohorts. To this end, ACT is providing a range of options and testing flexibility to students, schools, and districts. We are grateful for the feedback we've received from many superintendents, district testing coordinators, principals, school coordinators, and the Assessment Advisory Committee. Though all plans have not been finalized, we want districts to understand the decisions that have been made. For any additional questions, please contact Philip.Jacobs@tn.gov.

House Bill 2818 and College Readiness Testing for 2020 Graduates

[House Bill 2818](#) waives the requirement that public school students are required to have a college readiness exam score in order to graduate in 2020. This means that any senior that does not currently have an ACT/SAT score is not required to have one to graduate this year.

ACT Administration Options

ACT, Inc. cancelled all remaining school day administrations of the ACT, both paper and online, through June 2020. The following options are available to districts and schools to meet students' needs. Districts have the option of using any or all of these options:

1) Vouchers for June 13 or July 18 national test dates:

These are serialized vouchers and may only be used on these dates. They will not work for national test dates after July 2020.

- a) Districts desiring to issue vouchers for June 13 should determine the number required, and contact Amy.Peters@act.org as soon as possible.
- b) Districts desiring to issue vouchers for July 18 should determine the number required and contact Amy.Peters@act.org by **April 17**.
- c) Districts will be billed under their current contracts for each voucher used for ACT registration, even if the student does not show up for the test.
- d) Students must register at www.actstudent.org with their voucher number by **May 8** to avoid a late registration fee.

2) Closed school sessions for June 13 or July 18

This option will allow schools to test only their students regardless of the school's status as a national test center. Schools treat this session just as they would a school day administration.

- a) Schools are responsible for providing staffing.
- b) Districts desiring to use this option should contact Amy.Peters@act.org by **April 17**.
- c) Districts will be billed under their current contracts for each student that participates.

3) Fall testing for the 2021 cohort:

Fall testing will work exactly as it has in the past. The department will continue to fund fall testing. The department will load students on behalf of schools. School or district coordinators will complete Manage Participation. TAA coordinators will change the dates on accommodations.

Changes to ACT fall 2020 testing:

Because most spring 2020 dates were cancelled, the majority of Tennessee's students will take the ACT for the first time in the fall 2020 window. The original fall schedule left many districts with only one opportunity to offer the ACT. Many districts have fall break on either Oct. 6 or Oct. 20, and Nov. 3 is Election Day.

To address this issue, the department worked with ACT to move the November date to September, increasing the odds that all schools in Tennessee will be in session for at least two of the three available dates. The new fall 2020 administration options for schools are below. Schools may use any or all of these windows to offer the ACT to students in the 2021 cohort. Districts would be billed for this option using BEP funding intended for this cohort.

Sept. 22 – Standard Test Date Paper

Sept. 22 – 25 & 28 – Oct. 2 Accommodations Test Window Paper

Oct. 6 – Standard Test Date Paper

Oct. 6 – 9 & 12 Accommodations Test Window Paper

Oct. 20 – Emergency Standard Test Date Paper

Oct. 20 – 23 & 26 Emergency Accommodations Test Window Paper

All schools should select either Sept. 22 or Oct. 6 as the initial test date. Oct. 20 may only be used as a makeup or emergency test date.

Beginning **Aug. 3**, school or district coordinators may select dates for testing and shipping, and TAA coordinators may transfer accommodations from the spring to the fall. Schools will need to plan a day prior to testing to complete non-test items. These cannot be reused from spring 2020. Student score and high school score reports for Sept. 22 will follow the Oct. 6 schedule. Fall testing will continue to be **paper only**. The department will ensure that student rosters are moved from spring to fall.

Higher Education Admissions and Scholarships

The department has reached out to Tennessee higher education officials to adjust admission and scholarship deadlines. We will update this document when we receive more information.

ACT Remote Learning Supports

Many districts are looking for ways to support students remotely. [ACT Academy](#) is a free online resource available to schools, parents, and students. ACT Academy provides personalized practice and can be used by students at all grade levels, including kindergarten. There is a searchable resource library with video lessons provided by *GeoGebra*, *NASA*, *prepmagic*, and many others.

Once teachers are registered, students may easily join a virtual classroom under their teacher's name. Teachers can then make assignments, track progress, and provide feedback. ACT Academy also contains ACT practice tests with feedback on areas of strength and weakness, and customized lessons based on practice test results. Links to information on navigating the site are on page 3. Please share this information with your school administrators and teachers.

ACT Academy Training Links

- How to create a [Teacher Account](#)
- How to create a [Parent Account](#)
- How to create an [ACT](#) Student Account
- How to create a [preACT](#) Student Account
- [Deep Dive](#) into ACT Academy

Recommendations for Testing the 2021 Cohort

- 1) Districts provide vouchers to students that want or need them to test in June or July. This will allow interested students to have a college readiness score prior to the school year. Ideally, this will be a relatively low number of students. **Districts will be billed for each ACT registration using a voucher, whether the student attends the test or not.** We encourage you to keep accurate records of students that receive vouchers, as that will impact their participation in later administrations.
- 2) The bulk of students can take the test during the fall windows. This means using the “Senior Retake” as the first testing opportunity for most students, though any student that received a voucher, or tested on March 17 can also test. **All students should be allowed to take the ACT in the fall of 2020.**
- 3) For students that still need a second opportunity to take the ACT, we are working with ACT to establish a test opportunity for seniors only. It is possible that spring 2021 dates will change to accommodate this. The ACT Decision Chart below, covers the different testing eligibility outcomes based on the time students first tested in 2020.

ACT Decision Chart		
Student tested on March 17, 2020	Student tested with a voucher in the summer of 2020	Student tested for the first time in the fall of 2020
Then ↓	Then ↓	N/A
May participate in fall 2020 testing	May participate in fall 2020 testing	
And ↓	And ↓	Then ↓
May not participate in additional state-funded testing opportunities.	May not participate in additional state-funded testing opportunities.	Eligible to participate in an additional state-funded test opportunity.