

# 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 during the enhancements.

### 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 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.

Enhancements to the ACT test will affect ACT National 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 National Online Only

#### SEPTEMBER 2025

ACT National Paper & International  
Updated Composite Score for All ACT Tests

#### SPRING 2026

State & District Testing

## SCORES REPORTED ON THE ACT STARTING APRIL 2025

Beginning with the April 2025 National online 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:	THEY WILL RECEIVE:
The ACT Test (English, Math, and Reading sections)	Composite Score
The ACT Test with Science	Composite and STEM Scores
The ACT Test with Writing	Composite and ELA Scores
The ACT Test with Science and Writing	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 National online 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 Composite score 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](https://act.org/enhancementsK12)**

