

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 each student to show up with their best self on test day, creating more opportunities for college admission, scholarships, and more.
- ACT wants students to have the flexibility and choice to determine how they will test.
- ACT wants students to demonstrate their true capabilities and potential, always.
- ACT wants students to tailor their testing experience to fit their future goals and highlight their strengths.

ACT is committed to continuous improvement and innovation to make the ACT test primed for student success and college admission.

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 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 test with or without the science section.

WHAT'S NOT CHANGING?

The ACT scale will remain 1-36 as it has been for 35 years.

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 Spring 2026 Testing

THE NEW ACT COMPOSITE SCORE: STARTING APRIL 2025

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

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{ENGLISH} \\ + \\ \text{MATH} \\ + \\ \text{READING} \end{array} = \text{COMPOSITE SCORE}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{COMPOSITE SCORE} \\ + \\ \text{SCIENCE} \end{array} = \text{STEM SCORE}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{COMPOSITE SCORE} \\ + \\ \text{WRITING} \end{array} = \text{ELA SCORE}$$

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 subject scores and a STEM score (if they completed math).

ACT will not change how we send information to higher education institutions, so while the Composite score will be based on English, math and reading, all subject scores will continue to be sent as part of a score send.

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 subject 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, [visit act.org/actenhancements](https://act.org/actenhancements)

