ACT Accommodations and Supports Information

From the Utah Participation and Accommodations Policy:

From the [Utah Participation and Accommodations Policy](https://www.schools.utah.gov/file/8bb3543b-5b56-4ebf-b4c2-40d84aa30b9b) (https://www.schools.utah.gov/file/8bb3543b-5b56-4ebf-b4c2-40d84aa30b9b), "Accommodations are practices and procedures that provide equitable access during instruction and assessments for students with special needs that do not alter the validity, score interpretation, reliability, or security of the assessment."

Who may be eligible for ACT-authorized accommodations and supports?

Students with disabilities may be able to use testing accommodations as outlined in their IEP or 504 plan, and students who are learning English may be able to use English learner supports.

Why apply for ACT-authorized accommodations and supports?

For students to use any accommodations or supports on the ACT, they must be authorized by ACT if the student wants to get a college-reportable score. IEP, 504, or EL teams who choose to have students take the ACT with unapproved accommodations will result in the student receiving a state-reportable score only (used for state accountability reporting, but not eligible for college entrance).

How do students get ACT-approved accommodations and supports?

The student's school (usually their ACT testing coordinator or special education director) submits a testing accommodations and supports application to ACT through a website called the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA). An ACT accommodations team reviews the application. This team evaluates all requests for accommodations to make sure that the accommodations requested have the necessary supporting information and to make sure that accommodations requested would not invalidate the constructs of the ACT.   Students may receive all requested accommodations and supports, partial accommodations and supports, or have their accommodations request denied.

What information must be sent for ACT accommodations applications?

Parent permission to release information to ACT must be obtained by the school or district that is submitting the accommodations and supports request. For accommodations for students with disabilities (IEP or 504), evidence of a disability, consistency of use of the accommodation across classroom, school, and district testing must be evident, and the accommodation requested must make sense with the diagnosis or disability category (for example, requesting a screen reader for someone with a classification of OHI must have supporting documentation or information for why a screen reader is appropriate).

For students who are learning English, ACT requires confirmation of a student's designation as an English Language Learner (EL) annually, as determined by the [Utah English Language Learner Identification and Placement Guidance Document](). This confirmation is provided via TAA with **one** of the following documents:

1. WIDA Individual Student Report (ISR) showing a composite score below 5.0 (Spring testing from the previous school year)
   - Spring 2022 testing would show eligibility for the 2022 – 2023 school year
   - All four language domains must be assessed
   - Note – ACT does not accept WIDA Screener or WIDA Model scores to show EL designation
2. Annual parent notification of eligibility for services for the current/upcoming school year ([Yearly Parent Notification for English Learner Status]())
3. Student's schedule for the current school year with courses indicating they participate in English language acquisition classes
   - Highlight the relevant course(s) on the student's schedule for easy identification by ACT staff
4. Print out from the school data system for the current school year which shows an EL designation of LEP or LY
5. English language learner plan (ELP) indicating the current school year, and that language supports indicated are due to limited English proficiency

USBE strongly recommends opting to send current WIDA scores with an attached student schedule indicating the student participates in EL acquisition classes.

You can learn more about ACT accommodations by going to: [The ACT Accommodations and English Learner support page]() (https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/accommodations.html)

How does the accommodations and supports request process get started?

If the student is a junior, the school where the student is registered should take care of the request for testing accommodations and supports for the state 11th grade ACT test dates. If the student is not a junior, parents and students will need to work with the school and request to have them request testing accommodations and/or English learner supports for a national testing date. It is always advisable to check with the student's school to make sure that the appropriate accommodations and/or supports have been requested.

What is the process for applying for ACT-approved accommodations and supports?

You can find a quick guide that describes the process on ACT's website: [Quick Start Guide for Requesting Accommodations and Supports](http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/QuickStartGuideforRequestingAccomsSupports.pdf) (http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/QuickStartGuideforRequestingAccomsSupports.pdf)

The school testing coordinator sets up access in TAA to make the request. The signed parent permission information release form along with all necessary documentation is submitted through TAA. ACT reviews the request and makes a determination based on the information provided. The testing coordinator and parents are notified of ACT's determination. If the determination is not complete or is otherwise unsatisfactory, the submitting team can add more information and request a reconsideration through TAA. If the allowed accommodations are different than expected, the student's team (IEP, 504, or EL) can determine whether to have the student take the test with the accommodations authorized by ACT for a college-reportable score, or to have the student take the test using local testing accommodations and arrangements (accommodations that were not authorized by ACT) for a non-college reportable score. Information on the process for applying for accommodations is in the TAA User Guide [TAA User Guide](https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/user-guide-test-accessibility-and-accommodations.pdf) (https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/user-guide-test-accessibility-and-accommodations.pdf).

How long does this process take?

The process can take 2 – 4 weeks to complete once ACT receives all necessary paperwork through the TAA site.

Are there any deadlines I should know about?

The application window for 11th grade state testing opens on September 8, 2022 and closes January 20, 2022. It is extremely important to request accommodations on time. ACT does not allow for any extensions. Please see the Schedule of Events on [Utah's ACT Website](https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/state-and-district-solutions/utah/the-act.html) (https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/state-and-district-solutions/utah/the-act.html) for dates and deadlines. *Note: The Schedule of Events for Spring 2023 state testing will be posted to Utah's ACT Website at the beginning of November 2022.*

For national ACT testing: make sure you give yourself plenty of time before the selected national testing date to request accommodations or supports, and work with the school or district to submit the request with all necessary documentation. Be sure to consider the 2-4 weeks processing time by ACT.

Why do applications for student accommodations or supports get denied?

The most common reasons for denial of applications for accommodations and supports are:

- Missing documentation
- Accommodation or support requested is not supported by or aligned with documentation
- Missing evidence of contiguous use of accommodation from classroom assessments, to school and district assessments, to the ACT
- Late submission (past the request submission deadline)

Where can I find more information about ACT accommodations and supports?

Please be sure to check the resources on ACT's website: [ACT information for students and parents](https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html) (https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html). You can also reach out to ACT's customer care to address specific questions you may have.