



Overview

Utah's new 9th and 10th grade summative assessment

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College and Career Readiness | ACT | Utah Aspire Plus
Utah State Board of Education



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Why do we test learners?

- **Measurement** is the assignment of a number to a characteristic of an object or event, which can be compared with other objects or events.
- **Assessment** is the evaluation or estimation of the nature, quality, or ability of someone or something.



Why did we get a new test?

Legislative context for grades 9-10:

53E-4-304 High School Assessments

- The board shall adopt a high school assessment that:
 - (a) is predictive of a student's college readiness as measured by the college readiness assessment*
 - (b) provides a growth score for a student in grade 9 and 10

*the college readiness assessment most commonly submitted to local universities (ACT)

• <https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title53E/Chapter4/53E-4-S304.html>



Utah Aspire Plus Components

- Summative 50% ACT Aspire/50% Utah – March, 2019
- Question Samplers - Jan 2019
- Spanish Trans-adaptive
 - Online forms Summative – March 2019
 - Question Samplers – Jan 2019
- Benchmarks (100% Utah) – October 2019



Why a Hybrid Assessment?

- Utah Aspire Plus is a custom assessment created by Utah educators using ACT Aspire and Utah items
- Allows alignment to Utah Core Standards
 - Questions about math → Whitney Barlow whitney.barlow@schools.utah.gov
 - Questions about Science → Scott Roskelley scott.roskelley@schools.utah.gov
 - Questions about ELA → Megan Lopez megan.lopez@schools.utah.gov
- Using ACT Aspire items allows predictive scoring for Utah's College and Career Readiness assessment (the ACT)



Utah Aspire Plus: what changed?

- Hybrid test
- End-of-level (as opposed to end of-course like SAGE)
- Fixed form
- Will be timed
- No open response questions
- Braille/large print tests will be preprinted and delivered to schools.
- Spanish Transadaptive
- ELA is two tests; No writing



Utah Aspire Plus: What stayed the same?

- Aligned to Utah core standards
- The test is computer based – delivered on TestNav
- Active proctoring required
- We will continue to use SGP method to measure growth
- Questions samplers (tests to practice using format) available January 2019
- Multiple choice & technology enhanced questions
- Local control of proctoring
- Local control of accommodations
- Benchmarks will be available for teacher use beginning October 1, 2019 (100% Utah items)



Utah Aspire Plus: Administered Online

Assessment administered online – PC, Mac, iPad,
Chromebooks

- Teachers and administrators use PearsonAccess^{next} to
 - Manage test registrations
 - Print testing tickets
 - Assign and order accommodations
 - Manage and monitor testing sessions
 - View and access reports
- Students use TestNav to take the assessment



Other Assessment Administration Items:

- English, Reading, Math, and Science subtests
 - Once the subject test is started, that test will need to be completed that day
- Timed within the testing engine
- Test administration, accommodations, seating charts – more flexible than ACT
- Administer within the testing window
(March 25 – May 17, 2019)



Utah Aspire Plus Scoring

- Students taking all four Utah Aspire Plus subjects will receive ACT subject area and composite predicted scores.
- Spring 2019 predicted scores will be based on Utah Aspire items and national ACT norms.
- USBE will calculate student growth percentiles.
- Scoring changes:
 - No Writing



About Utah Aspire Plus English and Reading

- The English and Reading test blueprints were designed with Utah ELA educator input.
- The Utah items are from the 9th and 10th grade ELA Utah test bank
- ACT Aspire items are aligned to the 9th and 10th grade ELA Utah Core Standards.
- Rigorous core instruction is the best way to prepare students for Utah Aspire Plus
- The English and Reading assessments are designed to assess the skills that 9th and 10th grade ELA students should have by the end of those respective years.



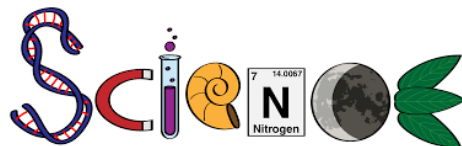
About Utah Aspire Plus Math

- The math test blueprint was designed with Utah math educator input.
- The Utah items are from the Secondary Math I (9th grade) and Secondary Math II (10th grade) Utah test bank.
- ACT Aspire items are aligned to the Secondary Math I (9th grade) and Secondary Math II (10th grade) Utah Core Standards.
- Rigorous core instruction is the best way to prepare students for Utah Aspire Plus
- The mathematics assessments are designed to assess the skills that 9th and 10th grade math students should have by the end of those respective years.



About Utah Aspire Plus Science

- The science test blueprint was designed with Utah science educator input
 - The test in both 9th and 10th grades have questions drawn from Biology (25%), Earth Science (25%), Chemistry (25%), and Physics (25%).
- The ACT Aspire items are aligned to the [six college and career readiness ACT science standards](https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/CCRS-ScienceStandards.pdf).
(<https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/CCRS-ScienceStandards.pdf>)
- The ACT Aspire items are aligned to the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) from the Utah core standards thanks to Utah teacher input.
- Items from the Utah core standards are “content agnostic”.
 - Regardless of what science course a 9th or 10th grade student takes, they should be able to answer the questions.
- Rigorous core instruction with a reemphasis on the science ILOs is the best way to prepare students for Utah Aspire Plus.



About Utah Aspire Plus and Accountability

Utah Aspire Plus scores will be used to:

- Provide predictive information for the college and career readiness assessment (the ACT),
- Evaluate whether or not students have achieved end-of-level proficiency as expected by 9th/10th grade students,
- Measure student growth between 9th and 10th grades,
- Measure growth of the lowest performing 25% of all students in the school,
- Calculate the school's participation rate.

