



# Testing FAQs

**Why is Utah changing assessments for 9th and 10th grade students?** Utah statute 53E-4-304 requires USBE to select an assessment for 9th and 10th grade students that is predictive of a student's college readiness as measured by the college readiness assessment most commonly submitted to local universities. This requirement resulted in the selection of a separate assessment for the 9th and 10th grade students.



**What is Utah Aspire Plus, I've never heard of that test?**

This assessment is a hybrid between the ACT Aspire and Utah's current 9th and 10th grade assessment items.

**How was this test chosen?** A request for proposals (RFP) was written in a manner that accepted three types of proposals: off-the-shelf, custom design, and hybrids. Four proposals were received, subsequently reviewed, and scored by the RFP scoring committee. Through this process the scoring committee identified the Utah Aspire Plus as the best solution for Utah.

**Which subjects will Utah Aspire Plus test?** Like the ACT Aspire, this test will measure Reading, English Math, and Science.

**How will the test be given?** The Utah Aspire Plus will be given at the end of the year, similar to how the ACT is administered.

**Does this mean the test will be administered on the same date, across the state?** No, a testing window will be established in the late Winter and Spring. Schools will be able to select a date/dates to administer the test during that window.

**Will the test be administered in one sitting, like the ACT?** That will be a local decision. Schools/LEAs will be able to decide if they would like to administer the test in one sitting or across multiple days or weeks.

**Do all of the students in a school have to take the test at the same time?** No, schools can select the best test administration schedule for their circumstances.

**Will the test be timed?** Yes, it will be timed. The length of the test has not been finalized but it is expected to be very similar in length to the ACT Aspire.

**Will the test be taken on computers?** Yes, the test will be taken on the same platform students taking the ACT online use. This interface is called TestNav.

**Will it be computer-adaptive, like the SAGE?** No, while the test will be taken online like the SAGE it is a fixed-form test.

**Why aren't we assessing writing in grades 9 & 10?** Writing is still part of the Utah ELA Core and it is expected that students are being taught and assessed in those standards at the local level. Writing is not included on this assessment because of a policy decision by the Utah State Board of Education.

**What kind of score report will my student receive?** These details are still being finalized but it is expected that the score report will be very similar to the report provided by ACT for the ACT Aspire, including a predictive ACT score.

**What will happen to the trend data we have been gathering over the last 5 years?** We will be starting over with trend data for grades 9 and 10. However, we will continue to calculate Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) for each student.

**Will the benchmark test still be available for use by Utah high school teachers?** Yes, beginning in 2019/2020, benchmarks will be available for use in English 9, English 10, Secondary Math I, Secondary Math II, Secondary Math III, Earth Systems, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

**Why won't the benchmark test be available for the 2018/2019 school year?** This is simply a result of timing. Pearson doesn't have enough time to create the benchmarks for 2018/2019, but will have them in place by fall of 2019.

