

ACT Online Testing FAQs

This page contains the answers to the most frequently asked questions about online vs. paper administration of the ACT test. Check here for quick answers to most questions

Q. Where can I find the technical requirements information for administering the ACT online?

A. You can find information the technical requirements for the online testing on [Utah's ACT Website](#) under pulldown menu 2. ACT: configuration, [Technical Requirements for Online Testing](#). If you have further questions about technical requirements, you can call the customer service number that is listed in the gray box on the website and they can answer any additional questions you might have.

Q. Does everyone in our LEA have to do online testing if one school wants to do online testing?

A. You can manage paper or online down to the student level if you wish. Some schools prefer to do all one mode of testing, while others prefer to select testing modes down to the student level. The only thing you cannot choose to do is mix modes of testing for the same student. If a student starts a test with paper testing, they cannot switch to online testing, and vice versa.

Q. Can we still participate in online testing if our school does not own the computers we would use to administer testing (i.e., if we rent computers for testing?)

A. No. Part of the security and technical requirements require advanced set up of computers. The school must own the computers that the tests will be administered on.

Q. How do we select the mode of testing we wish to do?

A. Testing coordinators manage testing through PearsonAccess^{next}. Download instructions on using PearsonAccess^{next} from [Utah's ACT Website](#) under the Configuration pulldown menu.

Q. What are the requirements for online testing and how are they different than paper testing?

A. the following table can help to answer the questions about the differences between online and paper testing:

Differences highlighted in yellow

Find detailed ACT information (manuals, technical guides) on [Utah's ACT website](#)

Comparison item	Online	Paper
Testing dates	T,W,Th Feb. 27 th , 2018 – Mar. 8 th 2018	Feb. 27 th , 2018 Make-up: Mar. 20, 2018 & Apr. 3, 2018
Testing dates for students with accommodations	Feb. 27 th – Mar. 13 th , 2018	Feb. 27 th – Mar. 13 th , 2018
Make-up dates for students with accommodations	Mar. 20-23, & 26 th , 2018	Mar. 20-23, & 26 th , 2018
Testing location	Approved testing sites that meet testing guide facility requirements for online testing .	Approved testing sites that meet testing guide facility requirements for paper testing .
Testing equipment required	Computers, necessary hardware, software and technical requirements Complete technology online site readiness by Jan. 12, 2018	Pencils, test and answer booklets
Testing staff required	Test coordinator, technical coordinator , room supervisors, proctors	Test coordinator, room supervisors, proctors

Comparison item	Online	Paper
Content and subject areas	English, mathematics, reading, science and writing. The same items and content and time allotments in each type of administration.	English, mathematics, reading, science and writing. The same items and content and time allotments in each type of administration.
Writing section completion method	Writing done on computer with keyboard.	Writing done by hand in the test booklet.
Test booklets and booklet security	No student test booklets.	Student test booklets for each multiple-choice subtest and separate test booklet for writing.
Student response submission	Students select answers using an online testing system.	Students select answers on a paper answer document.
Accommodation considerations (IEP/504/EL)	Application window Nov. 6 th , 2017 – Jan. 12 th , 2018 on Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) site	Application window Nov. 6 th , 2017 – Jan. 12 th , 2018 on Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) site
Non-assessment section requirements	Can be completed from off-site non-secure locations up to 4 days before and 4 days after testing is complete	Must be completed onsite prior to administration of ACT paper testing
Receipt of student scores	By mail – CD with student scores for students who took the school-administered test delivered in April. Student scores mailed to students individually as well. Students can look up online scores after receiving official score report in the mail.	By mail – CD with student scores for students who took the school-administered test delivered in April. Student scores mailed to students individually as well. Students can look up online scores after receiving official score report in the mail.