

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](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>) under Step 2 - Configuration, [Technical Requirements for Online Testing](#). If you have further questions about technical requirements, you can call the ACT help desk at 1-800-553-6244 X 2800. Let them know that you have technical questions about the online testing setup.

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 or if students use their own personal computers?)

A. No. Part of the security and technical requirements require advanced set up of computers. The school must manage 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 step 2: Configuration.

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:

Comparison Between Online and Paper Administration

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

Comparison item	Online	Paper
Testing dates	18 possible test dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Window 1: March 8-10, March 15-17, 2022 Window 2: March 22–24, March 29-31, 2022 Window 3: April 5-7 & April 12-14, 2022 	3 possible test dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Window 1: March 8, 2022 Window 2: March 22, 2022 Window 3: April 5, 2022
Testing dates for students with accommodations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Window 1: March 8-10, March 15-17, 2022 Window 2: March 22–24, March 29-31, 2022 Window 3: April 5-7 & April 12-14, 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Window 1: March 8-11 & 14-18, 2022 Window 2: March 22-25, March 28-31 & April 1, 2022 Window 3: April 5-8 & April 11-15, 2022
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 January 15, 2022	Pencils, test and answer booklets, timing pieces (i.e, stopwatches)

Comparison item	Online	Paper
Testing staff required	Test coordinator, technical coordinator, room supervisors, proctors	Test coordinator, room supervisors, proctors
Content and subject areas	The same test order (English, math, reading, science), content, and time allotments in both online and paper.	Same as online
Test booklets and booklet security	No student test booklets or answer documents.	Student test booklets for each multiple-choice subtest. Different test booklets for different types of accommodated tests. Paper answer documents. All materials must be securely stored, transported, and accounted for.
Student response submission	Students select answers using an online testing system.	Students select answers on a paper answer document.
Accommodation considerations (IEP/504/EL)	Most accommodations provided from within the online system (including extended time). Accommodations/EL supports request process is the same for paper and online.	Accommodations and supports must be manually managed. Accommodations/EL supports request process is the same for paper and online.
Non-assessment section requirements	Completed within MyACT	Same as online
Receipt of student scores	School and district reports are posted to success.act.org site in approximately mid-June. Student scores mailed to students individually within 3-8 weeks after test completion. Students can look up online scores in their MyACT.org account.	Same as online