



# ACT Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the ACT Test?**

The ACT test is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in English, math, reading, science, and writing. Students in 11th grade will take the ACT as part of the Arizona State Assessments for high school on April 9th, 2024.

Not only will this administration of the ACT serve as a state-wide assessment but students will be able to use their assessment results to apply to colleges. Additionally, the ACT results will provide data for the district and the schools to use in evaluating the effectiveness of curriculum and programs in preparing students for college and careers.

## **Why should my student take the ACT Test?**

Public school 11th grade students are required to take the ACT assessment. Students can also benefit from participating in the ACT testing in several ways:

- Data will be provided to students and parents showing strengths and weaknesses in subject areas tested allowing students/parents to work with teachers and counselors to determine areas of focus for remaining coursework
- College and career planning component is included allowing students/parents a tool for determining career interests, college majors, and occupational fields most suited for the student
- College admissions test (Students can choose up to four colleges to send scores for free)

## **When is the test date?**

DVUSD will be administering the ACT test on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Since the ACT is a timed test, it is crucial that students arrive at school on time. Prior to the testing date, students will complete a section with questions about educational and career plans. This section must be complete prior to the test date.

## **Will my student be penalized for not participating in the ACT test at the high school?**

This is a required test, so students who do not test on April 9th will be assigned to take the test during school on a date later in the week or the following week. Taking advantage of this free testing opportunity has many advantages for students. See “Why should my student take the ACT test?” above.

### **What is the format of the test?**

The ACT contains about 215 multiple-choice questions and an essay question and takes approximately 6 hours to complete, including an extended break between the multiple-choice test and the writing test for lunch. Actual testing time is 3 hours and 45 minutes. Students at BCHS, DVHS, and MRHS will take the test on paper. Students at Aspire, BGHS, SOHS, and Vista Peak will take the test on their chromebooks.

### **Can students use a calculator?**

Yes, students are permitted to use a calculator on the mathematics portion only. Students taking the test on a chromebook will have access to an embedded Desmos calculator. Students at a school taking the assessment on paper may bring his/her own calculator or borrow one from the school. Students may not share calculators. Students may bring any 4-function, scientific, or graphing calculator as long as it is a permitted calculator. For more calculator information, go to: <https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ACT-calculator-policy.pdf>

### **Are accommodations available for students with disabilities?**

Each high school has an ACT Accommodations Coordinator who will submit requests for accommodations to ACT for appropriate students. For more information about accommodations, go to: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act-educator/states-and-districts/accommodations.html>

### **Can students take the ACT more than once?**

Students may register to take the ACT again at their own expense. Some students may opt to take the ACT twice, once as a junior and once as a senior. Some students may choose to take the ACT once and the SAT once, choosing to send the better score report. Since the ACT and SAT tests are different in approach and scoring, students may do better on one over the other. For more information on taking the ACT again, go to: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents.html>

### **How should my student prepare for the test day?**

The best preparation for the ACT test is to engage fully in your coursework to gain a solid foundation in courses such as English, math, science and social studies. Prior to the test date, read the information about calculators (see above). You can also complete practice tests by going to the following site: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-day.html>. Be sure to get a good night's sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast on the test day. Bring a jacket or sweater, extra number 2 pencils, your school ID, and a calculator (optional).

### **When will my student receive his/her scores?**

Score reports will be sent to schools about 8 weeks after testing. Students may access their online score reports about one week after receiving the printed score report in the mail. To access the online report and a variety of other services, go to <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores.html>. The student will need to set up a student web account with ACT.

### **What if I have more questions?**

Go to the ACT web site Advice page at: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents/high-school-success/testing-advice-for-the-act.html>. Go to your school's web page: [www.dvusd.org](http://www.dvusd.org) (choose school from drop down menu). Contact your school's counseling department and ask for the ACT Test Coordinator.