

# 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 document. 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. How do we select the mode of testing we wish to do?**

A. Testing coordinators manage testing through PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup>. Download instructions on using PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> 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. 20-22, 26-28, 2019	Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 Make-up: Mar. 12, 2019 & Apr. 2, 2018
Testing dates for students with accommodations	Feb. 20-22, 26-28, 2019	February 20-22, 25-28, March 1, 4-6, 2019
Make-up dates for students with accommodations	Feb. 20-22, 26-28, 2019	March 12-15, 18, 2019 & April 2-5, 8, 2019
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 (proctor caching and mock administration) by Jan. 5, 2019	Pencils, test and answer booklets
Testing staff required	Test coordinator, technical coordinator, room supervisors, proctors	Test coordinator, room supervisors, proctors
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.

Comparison item	Online	Paper
<b>Writing section completion method</b>	Writing done on computer with keyboard.	Writing done by hand in the test booklet.
<b>Test booklets and booklet security</b>	No student test booklets.	Student test booklets for each multiple-choice subtest and separate test booklet for writing. Student booklets must be kept secure and returned according to ACT return requirements.
<b>Test sessions, proctoring, monitoring</b>	Test sessions may be initiated and loaded from one central computer. Test session progress/issues can be monitored from one central computer. Active room supervision and proctoring occurs within classroom/testing locations.	Test sessions are initiated within the testing room and timing is tracked manually. Test session progress/issues must be tracked on a location-by-location manual basis. Active room supervision and proctoring occurs within classroom/testing locations.
<b>Accommodated testing form delivery</b>	The appropriate accommodated forms as determined by the prior approved accommodations settings are delivered to students automatically. Students must test with only other students testing with the same timing codes.	The testing coordinator is responsible for making sure that the appropriate accommodated forms as determined by the prior approved accommodations settings are delivered to students, and that the accommodated paper forms are delivered appropriately. Students must test with only other students testing with the same timing codes.
<b>Student response submission</b>	Students select answers using an online testing system.	Students select answers on a paper answer document.
<b>Accommodation considerations (IEP/504/EL)</b>	Application window Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 – Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 on Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) site	Application window Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 – Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 on Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) site
<b>Non-assessment section requirements</b>	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. Can be completed as soon as materials arrive at school site.
<b>Receipt of student scores</b>	School and district reports delivered online via PearsonAccess <sup>next</sup> by about mid-June. Individual Student Reports mailed to student address recorded on non-test information booklet approximately 3-8 weeks after testing window concludes. Students can look up online scores after receiving official score report in the mail if they create an ACT.org account.	School and district reports delivered online via PearsonAccess <sup>next</sup> by about mid-June. Individual Student Reports mailed to student address recorded on non-test information booklet approximately 3-8 weeks after testing window concludes. Students can look up online scores after receiving official score report in the mail if they create an ACT.org account.