ENGLISH

Questions on the English assessment measure English skills students should master by the end of 9th and 10th grades, such as language conventions and comprehension (see Utah Core Standards in English Language Arts).

MATH

Questions on the Mathematics assessment measure mathematics skills students should master by the end of 9th and 10th grades, such as linear relationships, abstract and quantitative reasoning, and problem solving (see Utah Core Standards for Secondary Math I and II).

READING

Questions on the Reading assessment measure reading skills students should master by the end of 9th and 10th grades, such as reading and comprehending complex informational and literary texts (see Utah Core Standards in English Language Arts).

SCIENCE

Questions on the Science assessment measure scientific skills students should master by the end of 9th and 10th grades across all science content areas as described in the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) for biology, chemistry, Earth science, and physics (see Utah Core Standards for Secondary Science).

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utah Aspire ACT PLUS

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WHAT IS UTAH ASPIRE PLUS?

Utah Aspire Plus is a first-of-its kind custom assessment created by Utah educators. Utah Aspire Plus measures student knowledge, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills in reading, English, math, and science. The assessment consists of both ACT Aspire and Utah teacher-written questions and will be administered to 9th and 10th grade students starting in the Spring of 2019.

Why is Utah Changing Assessments for 9th and 10th Grade Students?

Utah Statute 53E-4-304 requires Utah State Board of Education (USBE) to select an assessment for 9th and 10th grade that is predictive of a student's college readiness as measured by the college readiness assessment most commonly submitted to local universities (ACT), and to provide a student growth score between grades 9 and 10. This requirement resulted in the selection of a new assessment for 9th and 10th grade students.

The Benefits of Utah Aspire Plus

The Utah Aspire Plus provides parents, students, and educators with information about student academic proficiency, academic growth, and college and career readiness. Utah Aspire Plus will be administered in a manner similar to the ACT, offering students an authentic ACT experience. Students who speak Spanish and who have limited English proficiency will have the option to take a Spanish Transadaptive version of the Utah Aspire Plus which accounts for cultural and linguistic differences between English and Spanish speakers. Students will receive a predictive ACT score in each subject area assessed (English, Reading, Math, and Science), which will provide information on each student's academic proficiency and college and career readiness in each of these subject areas.

UTAH ASPIRE PLUS FAQ

How was this test created?

A request for proposals (RFP) was written in a manner that accepted three types of proposals: off-the-shelf, custom design, and hybrids. The RFP scoring committee reviewed all proposals and identified Utah Aspire Plus as the best solution for Utah because it meets legislative requirements, as outlined in Utah Legislative Code 53E-4-304 and provides information on student proficiency on the Utah Core Standards.

When will Utah Aspire Plus be given?

Utah Aspire Plus is given at the end of the school year. The test is available for schools to administer between the end of March and mid-May. School and district leaders decide if they will administer the entire test in one day, like they do with the ACT, or if they will administer the test across multiple days or weeks. Schools will select the testing day(s) within the available testing window that fits best with their schedule.

Will Utah Aspire Plus be taken on computers?

Yes, the Utah Aspire Plus will be taken on computers using the same computer platform as the ACT. This platform is called TestNav.

Will Utah Aspire Plus be computer adaptive?

No, while the test will be taken online, it is a fixed-form test. This means that every 9th grade test taker will be asked the same 9th grade questions, and every 10th grade test taker will be asked the same 10th grade questions.

Will Utah Aspire Plus be timed?

To better prepare students to take the ACT, which is timed, Utah Aspire Plus will also be timed. Students will have 45 minutes to complete the English section, 60 minutes to complete the Science section, 90 minutes to complete the reading section, and 90 minutes to complete the Math section.

What kind of score report will my student receive?

The Utah Aspire Plus score reports will contain an overall composite score, ACT predictive score, and scores indicating how well a student performed in each subject area assessed: reading, English, math, and science.

How will I access my students' scores?

When scores are available, schools will share individual student reports with parents, either by mail or electronically. Parents will also be able to access their student's scores digitally through Pearson's Parent Portal by creating an account at https://results-ut.pearsonaccessnext.com. For more information on how to access you student's scores, contact your student's school.