

2017-2018 ACT



COUNSELOR'S
GUIDE

TOGETHER, **WE CAN** MAKE STUDENTS UNSTOPPABLE.

Like you, we're dedicated to **THE SUCCESS OF EVERY STUDENT**—today, tomorrow, and well into the future.

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES that open doors.

ACT is about more than just a test. We offer products and services that open doors, build confidence, and unleash the potential of your students. As a counselor, you're incredibly busy, so we want to make understanding and using our tools as simple as possible. Use this guide as a resource to share with your students. There's no telling how far you can help them go.

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“ The best part about the ACT experience was that I was able to prove to myself that I can do just about anything I set my mind to. The ACT brought out my skills that I knew I had within me and polished my skills. ”

Javier, High School Junior

WHAT'S **NEW** for **2017-2018**

Assessment, done right, is about opening doors and accelerating learning. It's about creating a more holistic view of students so that, together, we can help our young people make the most of their potential. Here's what's new for the ACT[®] test in 2017-18:

- **Additional test date - July 14, 2018:** Students, parents, and educators told us an additional test date would be valuable. As a result, we've added a seventh test date to help you focus on coursework during the school year and then test during the summer.
- **English learner supports:** The number of English learners is growing in our country, and we're committed to improving access and opportunities for these students. That's why ACT is providing supports on the ACT to US students who are English learners. These supports are designed to improve access and equality for students whose proficiency in English might prevent them from fully demonstrating the skills and knowledge they've learned in school.
- **English language arts (ELA) benchmark:** The ACT score report will now provide an ELA benchmark, allowing you to compare your ELA score to the ELA benchmark. By meeting the benchmark, you increase your likelihood to succeed in individual college courses related to English and reading and achieving longer-term outcomes compared to others.
- **Personalized instructional resources:** You can access personalized guidance with OpenEd, an ACT company. The site offers numerous resources aligned to the ACT College and Career Readiness score reporting categories. Just create an account and enter PreACT[®] or ACT scores to receive personalized resources to strengthen your college readiness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE UPDATES
AND MORE, VISIT US AT act.org/the-act-updates

ACT NATIONAL TEST DATES & 2017-18 FEES

2017 Test Dates	SEP 9	OCT 28	DEC 9	Register at act.org
Registration Deadline	AUG 4	SEP 22	NOV 3	
**Late Registration	AUG 5-18	SEP 23-OCT 6	NOV 4-17	
Photo Upload Deadline	SEP 1	OCT 20	DEC 1	

2018 Test Dates	FEB 10*	APR 14	JUN 9	JUL 14*
Registration Deadline	JAN 12	MAR 9	MAY 4	JUN 15
**Late Registration	JAN 13-19	MAR 10-23	MAY 5-18	JUN 16-22
Photo Upload Deadline	FEB 2	APR 6	JUN 1	JUL 6

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the February and July test dates.

**All material sent by mail must be RECEIVED by the last date of the late period, regardless of postmark date.

2017-18 TEST FEES⁺

ACT	\$46.00
ACT with writing	\$62.50

⁺If you cannot afford the test fee, ask your counselor about requesting a fee waiver.

WHY CHECK YES on EOS?

When you register for the ACT, make sure to sign up for the ACT Educational Opportunity Service (EOS).

Here are three reasons to CHECK YES on EOS:

CONNECT WITH COLLEGES

EOS broadens your college search by introducing you to more colleges. On average, students who check yes have their names selected by more than 16 colleges.



FIND SCHOLARSHIPS and FINANCIAL AID

Groups that oversee scholarships and other forms of financial aid use EOS to connect with students.



MOST STUDENTS USE IT

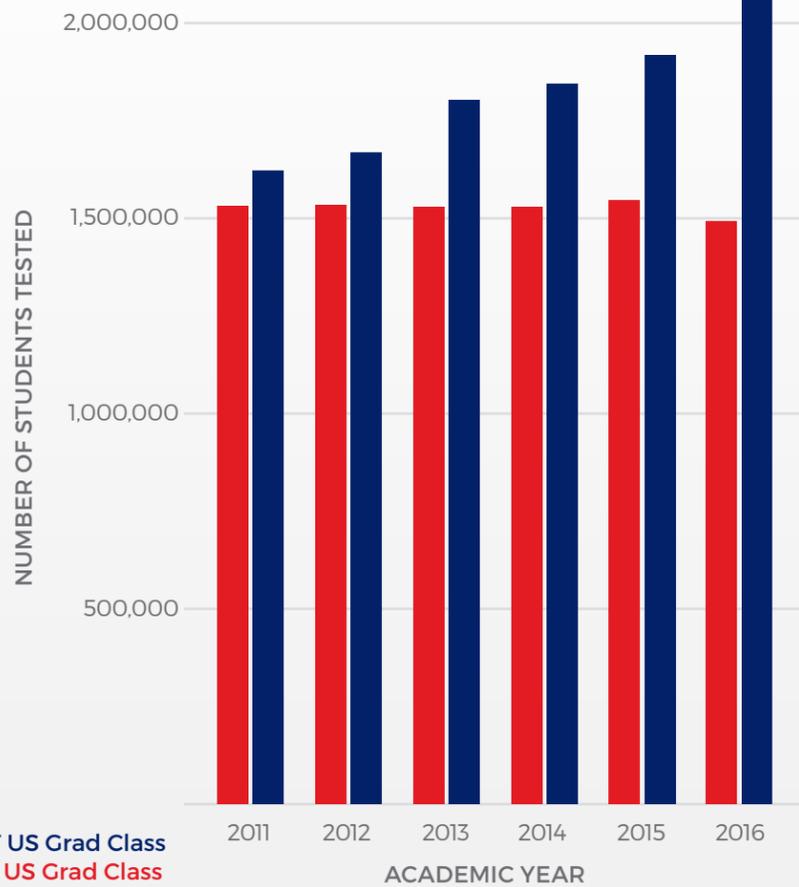
In 2016, about 73% of ACT-tested high school students opted in to EOS. **It's free** and, if you change your mind, you can switch your preferences online.



GROWING STRONG

ACT OR SAT? It's a question many ask. As the leading college entrance exam, ACT continues to leverage its years of research and **focus on your success** to outpace the SAT. Year after year, more are choosing the ACT to fulfill their college admissions requirements.

ACT vs. SAT



Not to mention
more than 200
 international
 universities.

YES, EVEN
IVY LEAGUE
SCHOOLS!

EVERY 4-YEAR
UNIVERSITY
 IN THE UNITED STATES
ACCEPTS THE ACT

IT'S MUCH MORE
 THAN A TEST

We show you majors to consider, areas to improve, and whether retesting might be a good choice.

SIX GOOD REASONS to take THE ACT

WHY TAKE THE ACT?
 We have countless reasons, but here are **OUR TOP SIX.**

SIX REASONS ▶ ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

See why more people are taking the ACT than ever before.

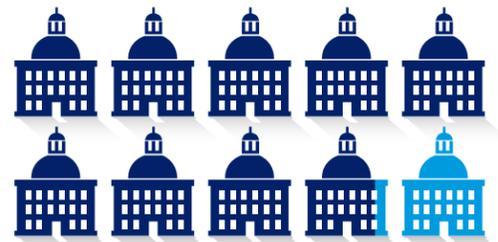
WE'VE GOT **student interests** IN MIND

- ▶ Science test
- ▶ STEM score
- ▶ English language arts score

We're the **ONLY** college admissions exam with **ALL THREE.**

For **EVERY** student and **ANY** preference.

There are **TONS OF OPTIONS** for preparation



88% of colleges **EMPHASIZE** standardized test scores in admissions

HARD WORK PAYS OFF



NO SHORTCUTS HERE

The best way to prepare is **ATTENDING CLASS AND STUDYING HARD**

ACT KAPLAN ONLINE PREP LIVE

If you learn better with classroom instruction, **we have the tool for you.**

ACT has partnered with Kaplan Test Prep to offer ACT® Kaplan® Online Prep Live, a virtual classroom that delivers **interactive instruction** in real time, all at an accessible price. You can view live or recorded sessions using your favorite device—so you can prepare when it's most convenient.

ACT KAPLAN ONLINE PREP LIVE PROVIDES:

- Live sessions taught by Kaplan-certified instructors
- Flexible subscriptions from 6 weeks to 6 months
- Guided learning plans, adjusted and dependent upon your ACT test date
- ACT practice tests
- A social community of teachers and peers
- Instructor assistance delivered in real time, even outside of classroom hours

Students registering for the ACT with a fee waiver will also receive free access to ACT Kaplan Online Prep Live, which includes full access to ACT® Online Prep.

LEARN MORE AT act.org/onlinepreplive



TEST PREP ON DEMAND

Even one point on your ACT Composite score can make a difference in receiving scholarships and gaining admission to the college of your choice. Your coursework already prepares you to take the ACT, but additional practice can help you feel comfortable, confident, and ready to do your absolute best.

ACT ONLINE PREP

With **personalized learning paths** for all four ACT subject areas, ACT Online Prep is an interactive, online program for on-the-go ACT test practice. It helps you:

GET READY—It's a great way to prepare for the ACT, especially since it's built by the test makers themselves.

GET COMFORTABLE—The practice questions and tests are taken from previous ACT tests, which familiarizes you with the format.

GET CONFIDENT—As you see scores and percentages change with each course and practice session, you'll know you're getting the hang of it.

ACT ONLINE PREP PROVIDES:

- A **FREE** mobile app
- ACT practice tests
- A personalized learning path with daily goals and progress tracking
- Flashcards customized for your review needs
- A game center to further test your knowledge

LEARN MORE AT act.org/aop



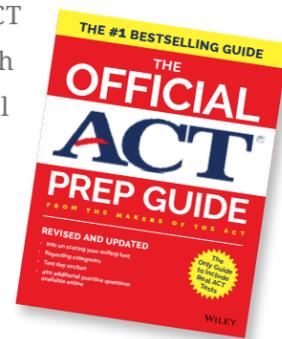
We do everything possible to make you feel comfortable, confident, and test-ready. **Don't worry, you've got this—with our test prep solutions.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Your school has the option of purchasing program licenses for all students planning to take the ACT. Check with your counselor and see if your school provides this service.

THE OFFICIAL ACT PREP GUIDE

There's **only one** test prep book from the makers of the ACT.

Anywhere, anytime, you can prepare for the ACT with *The Official ACT® Prep Guide*. It includes ACT tests you can take at your own pace, with clear explanations for every answer. You'll also find test-taking strategies and ideas for boosting scores on the English, math, reading, and science tests, as well as the optional writing test.



THE OFFICIAL ACT PREP GUIDE INCLUDES:

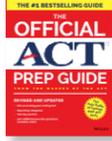
- Three practice tests
- Explanations for all correct and incorrect answer choices
- Test-taking strategies
- Hundreds of additional practice questions in the online bonus content area

Be prepared from registration to test day. You can purchase *The Official ACT Prep Guide* at act.org or from other retailers, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



When it comes to preparing, **YOU HAVE MULTIPLE CHOICES.**

Use this helpful reference guide to decide which options are right for you based on your personal preferences and learning style.

	Preparing for the ACT Test (booklet)	Practice Test Questions		Question of the Day		Online Prep Live 
 Self-Paced OR Guided	Self-Paced	Self-Paced	Self-Paced	Guided: A new question every day	Guided: Daily goals and tools to help progress	Guided: Live instruction and interaction
 Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructions and format of the test • A complete practice test and a writing prompt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves your knowledge on each subject • Answer, review, and analyze practice questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test-taking strategies • Three practice tests • Explanations for correct and incorrect answers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new question every day • Learn from the answers and explanations 	Practice with past test questions and complete tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live streaming classes by expert instructors • Access recorded sessions at any time
 Why choose this option	Get an introduction to the format and layout of the test	Extra practice on each test subject	For those who prefer studying from a book	Quick, effective way to get more prep with a new question each day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 month unlimited access subscription • Work at your own pace on the content you most need to study 	Subscriptions: 6 Week 3 Month 6 Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those who learn better from live instruction
 Format						
 Price*	FREE	FREE	\$32.95	FREE	\$39.95 (FREE if registering for ACT national test date with a fee waiver)	\$99.95–\$249.95 depending on length of subscription (FREE if registering for ACT national test date with a fee waiver)

*Pricing subject to change

ALL PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE AT actstudent.org

PLAN FOR THE ACT AND FOR THE FUTURE

PreACT® is a multiple-choice assessment testing the same areas as the ACT test: English, math, reading, and science. PreACT results can show you how to adjust your coursework today and which careers might be a great fit.

PreACT is designed to give 10th graders experience with the ACT, and provides a predictive score range based on the ACT 1–36 scale.

PreACT PROVIDES:

- A PreACT score and predicted ACT score
- A full view of your college and career readiness
- Areas of strength and improvement for success in high school
- A personalized view of interests with college and career alignment

The choices you make today can chart a course for life.
Use PreACT insights to help you plan for future success.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: If your school doesn't offer PreACT, you soon will be able to register and take PreACT on national test dates just as you would the ACT test.

LEARN MORE AT act.org/preact



LEARN WHERE YOU STAND TO
**reach your full
POTENTIAL**

ACT® Engage® can help you achieve your academic goals, regardless of your starting point. And the best part? It only takes **30 MINUTES.**

ACT ENGAGE HELPS:

- Identify potential personal challenges that go unreported in standardized academic tests
- Evaluate self-reported social and emotional learning
- Define the level of academic risk
- Use suggested interventions to help improve academic achievement

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO act.org/engage

A large photograph of a young man with dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, smiling broadly. He is in a classroom setting with bookshelves and other students in the background.

“Together, [academic and non-academic assessments] can really pinpoint multiple aspects of a student that affect learning. With the data from these assessments, we have worked directly with students and can see definite increases in their social and emotional skills, as well as their grades.”

Jeff Allmon, School Counselor
McPherson Middle School

Engage can help you achieve important academic goals: improving grades, succeeding in and out of school, and making a commitment to completing your education. Ask your counselor if Engage might be right for you.

“It felt good to earn my Gold ACT WorkKeys NCRC. I have a lot of confidence in myself, but it’s nice to have confirmation of what I can do. My certificate is something solid I can bring to an interview, and if an employer is using the NCRC to help select applicants, then it gives me a leg up.”

Emily, ACT NCRC Recipient
Oregon

CAREER-READY SKILLS

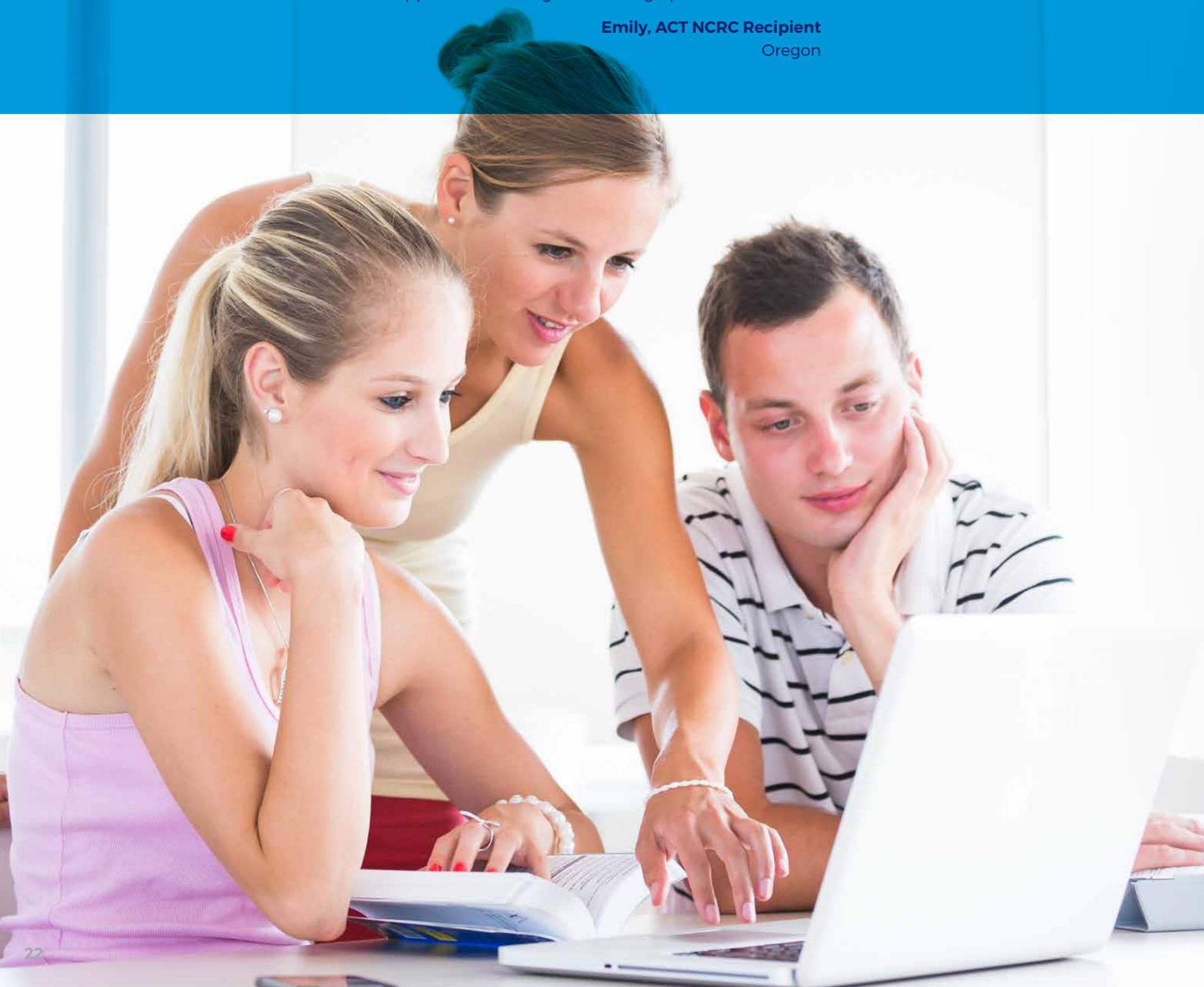
Whether your plans after high school include an internship, working during college, or going straight into the workforce, you can **showcase your skills to employers** of all kinds with ACT[®] WorkKeys[®].

More than ever, people are entering the workforce unprepared. After taking WorkKeys, you’ll understand your strengths, weaknesses, and how you stack up to what employers expect.

If you complete the three WorkKeys assessments—Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents—you can earn the ACT[®] WorkKeys[®] National Career Readiness Certificate[®] (NCRC[®]).

With WorkKeys, you’re in control—take it on your own time, as many times as you want, and only share scores with employers when you’re ready.

LEARN MORE AT act.org/workforce



LEARN MORE



ABOUT OUR SOLUTIONS

ACT ENGAGE Grades 6-12

Measure attitudes and behavior critical to success

LEARN MORE AT act.org/engage

PreACT Grade 10

Get early indicators of your ACT performance and plan your high school coursework

LEARN MORE AT act.org/preact

ACT TEST PREP All Grades preparing for the ACT

Gain confidence and be ready for the ACT test

LEARN MORE AT act.org/the-act/testprep

THE ACT TEST Grades 11-12

College admissions exam and career planning

LEARN MORE AT actstudent.org

ACT WorkKeys Grade 12

Measure and build workplace skills

LEARN MORE AT act.org/workforce

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
ACT.ORG

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