

PreACT™
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

October 2016–17

The following FAQ has been developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to assist school systems in the administration of the PreACT. This information should be used in conjunction with other testing materials in the administration of the test, including all information from the test publisher.

- Parents and students may find more information about the PreACT at <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/preact.html>.

Eligibility

Who is eligible to take the PreACT?

All public school students, including traditional, charter, and regional school students, in grade ten (10) according to PowerSchool, will participate in the PreACT. The only exceptions are as follows:

- students who have a significant cognitive disability, receive instruction in the Extended Content Standards in all assessed content areas (i.e., English language arts/reading, mathematics, and science), and whose current Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) document participation in the **NCEXTEND1** grade 10 alternate assessment;
- students whose current IEPs document participation in the College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment (CCRAA) at the tenth (10th) grade level and also have a written parental request for an alternate assessment; and
- students deemed medically fragile because of a significant medical emergency and/or condition and unable to participate in testing; all medical exceptions must be approved by the Division of Accountability Services/North Carolina Testing Program.

May nonpublic schools and home schools participate in the statewide administration of the PreACT?

No. The statewide administration of the PreACT is for North Carolina public schools. As with any vendor assessment, the NCDPI does not function as a third party for nonpublic or home schools.

Test Window

What are the administration dates and times for the PreACT?

The testing window for the PreACT is October 3–31, 2016, and testing may take place at any

time during the window. Schools should plan for students to take approximately three <http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/AdministrationManual-PreACT.pdf> and one-half-hours to complete all four subtests.

What time of day does the PreACT begin?

The start time for the administration is a local decision.

Test Planning

Must calculators be supplied by the school or by the student for the test?

ACT allows the use of a calculator on the PreACT Mathematics Test only. Students are not required to use a calculator. All problems can be solved without a calculator. ACT will provide a list of permitted calculators that will be very similar to the list used for the ACT.

Calculators may be supplied either by the school or by the student. There is no policy stating that the school must supply the student calculators. However, all calculators must be cleared before and after testing. The school must ensure that any calculator used meets the requirements stated in the PreACT's Administration Manual.

Can students be tested in groups on different days since the testing window is October 3 through October 31?

All four academic PreACT tests (English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science) should be administered on one day, during one test session. Although this is not a testing requirement, it is a testing best practice. Students who are absent on the initial test date must be scheduled for a makeup date. Schools will need to plan accordingly in order to meet the needs of students with IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and EL plans/documentation.

Do we need to fill out the *Review of Accommodations Used During Testing* form?

A *Review of Accommodations Used During Testing* form does not need to be completed for the PreACT.

If a student is homebound, hospitalized, or incarcerated, how will he/she take the assessment?

Students may be tested off-site. A PreACT/ACT Test Material Offsite Check Out form must be completed before a student is tested off-site and kept on-site with the school TC for at least one year.

Accommodations

How do students receive accommodations on the PreACT?

There is not an ACT-approved process for students to receive PreACT accommodations; however, accommodation requests should be supported by the students' IEPs, Section 504 Plans, or EL plans/documentation. Schools must work with their LEA test coordinators to order the total number of accommodated testing materials needed at each school. Charter schools will order directly from ACT. Accommodated materials include audio CDs, reader's scripts, large print test books, and Braille test books.

Should students' IEPs, Section 504 Plans, or EL plans/documentation include accommodations for the administration of the PreACT?

Accommodations for these assessments should be added to the students' IEPs, Section 504 Plans, or EL Plans as annual reviews occur. The PreACT has specific accommodation policies that may differ from those of the North Carolina state-developed assessments, and IEP Teams must take these policies into consideration when making accommodations decisions.

If a school is unable to change a students' IEP, Section 504 Plan, or EL plan/documentation prior to the administration of the PreACT, and the student has documented accommodations in the plan for the ACT Plan, then those accommodations should be applied to the PreACT.

Does ACT allow for a read aloud accommodation on the PreACT reading test?

Yes. Unlike the reading tests administered through the North Carolina Testing Program, the PreACT reading tests may be read aloud.

If a student has the *Test Administrator Reads Test Aloud—by Student Request* accommodation, may a DVD or a human reader be used?

Yes, an audio DVD version of the test is available. Students may also use a human reader for this accommodation.

May students who are scheduled to have the read aloud accommodation have the test read aloud to them in a small group?

ACT recommends that if a read aloud accommodation is used, the teacher/proctor should use the PreACT Reader's Script in a one-on-one setting. Using the read aloud accommodation with a group will extend the testing time and may be distracting to students.

Must a student have everything read aloud if he or she has the read aloud accommodation?

No. A student does not need to have the entire test read aloud if this is outlined in his or her IEP, Section 504 Plan, or EL plan/documentation.

Does a request for a medical exception need to be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) for students required to take PreACT?

Yes. All requests for medical exceptions for the PreACT must be approved by the Division of Accountability Services/North Carolina Testing Program.

Who may we contact with accommodation questions concerning the PreACT?

Contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator with accommodation questions concerning the PreACT.

English Learners

Will English Learner (EL) students in their first year in a U.S. school be required to take the PreACT?

Yes, EL students will be required to take the PreACT.

Are EL students eligible for testing accommodations on the PreACT?

Yes, EL students are eligible to receive state testing accommodations on the PreACT.

Are foreign language dictionaries permitted for use by students taking the PreACT?

No, foreign language dictionaries are not permitted for use on the PreACT.

Alternate Assessments

Is an alternate assessment available for the PreACT?

Yes. Currently the College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment (CCRAA) is available for 10th graders who meet the eligibility criteria and have the appropriate documentation in their IEP.

For students in the North Carolina Extended Content Standards, the ***NCEXTEND1*** alternate assessments of English II, NC Math 1, and Biology serve as the alternate assessment for the PreACT.

Other

Will the PreACT replace the PSAT®?

No. The PSAT will still be available to school systems. The PSAT's funding is not affected by the PreACT.