



ACT with Writing Assessment Profile Last Reviewed: June 2025

Assessment Profile for the ACT with Writing Assessment

Why:

The ACT with Writing is the general mathematics, reading/language arts, and science assessment for academic state achievement reporting in Grade 11. The ACT with Writing is aligned to the Montana Content Standards in Math and English language arts (ELA) and currently under alignment studies to the Montana Content Standards in Science (2016). It is used to provide state, district, school, and individual student achievement information on the state-adopted content standards in mathematics, ELA, and science. It is used by the state to provide a consistent picture of student performance and proficiency across Montana's public schools and private schools seeking accreditation. It is an important measure for understanding comparisons between schools, over time, and for gaining understanding of equity in educational services.

State Requirement:

- "English language arts and mathematics assessments shall be aligned to Montana content standards in English language arts and mathematics and administered in grades 3-8 and 11."
- "Science assessments shall be aligned to Montana content standards for science and administered in grades 5, 8, and 11."

Source: [ARM 10.56.102\(3\)\(a\) and \(b\)](#)

Federal Requirement:

- "In the case of mathematics and reading or language arts, be administered— (aa) in each of grades 3 through 8; and (bb) at least once in grades 9 through 12."
- "In the case of science, be administered not less than one time during— (aa) grades 3 through 5; (bb) grades 6 through 9; and (cc) grades 10 through 12."

Source: [ESEA Section 1111\(b\)\(2\)\(B\)\(v\)\(I\) and \(II\)](#)

What:

The ACT with Writing assesses the content areas of English, writing, reading, science, and mathematics. Student performance within Montana's accountability system will use results from this assessment for grade 11 to calculate academic achievement and growth over time in the math, ELA, and science content areas.

Who:

Montana is one of 21 states that has a state contract with ACT. Each state contract with ACT is distinct for the purposes of state census-level testing. These states include:

Required Statewide Assessment	Required Statewide Assessment	Optional Test
Alabama	Montana	Ohio
Arizona	Nebraska	Oklahoma
Arkansas	Nevada	Minnesota
Hawaii	North Carolina	Tennessee
Kentucky	North Dakota	
Louisiana	South Carolina	
Mississippi	Utah	
Missouri	Wisconsin	
	Wyoming	



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This assessment is required in all public schools and accredited private schools. During the 2024–2025 school year Montana had roughly 180 schools with students in the tested grades.

Annually, roughly 10,600 students are assessed using this assessment measure in the tested grades.

All district System Test Coordinators (STCs) will be assigned a district user role in the Pearson Access^{Next} (PANext) portal. The STC is responsible for creating all school level user roles in the portal. A newly created user will receive an email from NoReplyTestAdmin@act.org with a link and first-time log-in instructions.

Prior to administering the ACT with Writing, the STC must complete the [ACT Test Coordinator Student Privacy Assurance Form](#). Starting in 2023 the OPI adopted the online testing format. With the state census administrations, testing may be given with the ACT allowable accommodations using the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) system. It is important that registration information within EDUCATE (IC) be as accurate and complete as possible for the inclusion of all eligible students for this important statewide accountability assessment. Student participation is mandatory for both federal and state compliance.

Students must be current in EDUCATE (IC) with enrollments to an accredited, open school and district for the current fiscal year. The student must also have a primary enrollment status indicating this is the school he/she receives primary educational services from. The student must be enrolled in grade 11. The OPI uploads students into PANext in mid-December using the data as it is entered into the local student data system (e.g., Infinite Campus, PowerSchool). If a student moves out of district, the district should ensure that the student is end-dated at said district, in order to allow the student to enroll in another school system within the state and participate in the statewide required assessment. Districts/schools can contact the OPI Assessment Unit to have students added or deleted from student lists in PANext after the initial student upload is completed by the OPI.

When:

This statewide summative assessment has three test windows that start in the spring of each year. This 2025–2026 school year offers the following test windows: March 24–April 3, April 7–April 17, and April 21–May 1, 2026.

Average Testing Times	
Mathematics	50 minutes
ELA	1 hour, 55 minutes
Science	40 minutes
Total	3 hours, 25 minutes

Where:

The test is delivered in an online format with ACT allowable accommodations. The test is managed via [PearsonAccess^{Next}](#) and school testing coordinators will use the resources from the [state and district solutions portal](#) and the [Success.act.org](#) site.



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Cost:

The ACT contract is managed by the OPI. Annually, the cost for the ACT with Writing is approximately \$60 per student.

Where Do I Find More Information or Ask Additional Questions?

Students receive their mailed scores 5-8 weeks after testing. Schools and districts receive results in late May. District, school, class, and individual student reports are all available in the Online Reporting System on the [Success.act.org](https://success.act.org) site. Scores will be loaded into the Online Reporting System 5-10 days after receipt by ACT.

For state official reporting purposes, the OPI receives the raw results file in late June each year and typically releases the official results to the public in mid-September.

Questions about this assessment should be directed to the OPI Assessment Help Desk at 1.844.867.2569, or e-mail us at OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov.

You can explore additional resources and materials for this assessment on the [ACT Montana State Page website](#).