

# ACT<sup>®</sup> High School Assessments

## Information for Families 2014-15



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## What are the ACT High School Assessments?

ACT®, Inc. has provided testing services for more than 50 years and their assessments have evolved over the years to reflect the nation's view of education to embrace lifelong learning and prepare students to be college and career ready after high school graduation. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is entering into a partnership with ACT®, Inc. to comprehensively assess Wisconsin high school students:

- 9th grade students will take the **ACT Aspire™ Early High School** assessment in the Fall and Spring.
- 10th grade students will take the **ACT Aspire™ Early High School** assessment in Spring.
- 11th grade students will take **The ACT® Plus Writing** and the **ACT® WorkKeys® Assessment System** in the Spring.

**The ACT Aspire™ Early High School** - ACT Aspire assesses student readiness in English, mathematics, reading, science, and writing.

**The ACT® Plus Writing** - The ACT Plus Writing consists of four multiple-choice tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science; and a 30-minute essay test that measures student writing skills.

**ACT® WorkKeys®** - ACT WorkKeys is an applied skills assessment system which consists of 3 tests: Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information.

## How are the test results used?

All students in grades 9-11 will be given these assessments except for approximately 1% of students with significant cognitive disabilities who will be tested with an alternate assessment. This system of assessments will allow teachers to measure a student's growth throughout high school.

DPI will also use The ACT® Plus Writing for the high school accountability measure in order to determine the extent to which schools and districts across the state meet proficiency standards.

## What type of scores will be provided?

- ACT Aspire™ Early High School scores are reported on a 3 digit scale. These scores will predict future ACT scores and WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate attainment.
- ACT scores range from 1 to 36 for each of the subtests and one overall score called a test composite. In most situations scores earned on the ACT can be used by students for college enrollment, scholarships, and NCAA eligibility requirements. Many UW System colleges require ACT scores for college entrance.
- By taking the WorkKeys assessment, students can earn National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC) that are recognized nationally by businesses and industries. This certificate is used by some employers to make sure prospective employees have the skills necessary for the job they are applying for. Students will demonstrate their skills in the areas of Applied Mathematics,

Locating Information, and Reading for Information.

- Score reports will be available 4-6 weeks after each assessment is given.

## Where can I find sample or practice test questions?

Practice tests and sample test questions are available from ACT. Actual test items are not released.

- ACT Aspire™ Early High School sample items available at:  
<http://www.discoveractaspire.org/assessments.html> and  
<http://actaspire.avocet.pearson.com/actaspire/home#5055>
- The ACT® Plus Writing practice tests available at:  
<http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/>
- The ACT® Plus Writing sample writing prompts available at:  
<http://www.actstudent.org/writing/sample/>
- The ACT® WorkKeys® practice test available at:  
<http://www.act.org/workkeys/assess/sample.html>

## What learning standards do the ACT High School Assessments measure?

ACT and DPI work together to ensure that the ACT assessments measure what students have learned through our State Standards. Wisconsin students are taught with the rigor and complexity as required by the State Standards and will be well prepared to be successful with the ACT assessments.