



# ACT<sup>®</sup>

## High School Assessments



### Information for Educators

#### What are the ACT High School Assessments?

ACT<sup>®</sup>, 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<sup>®</sup>, 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<sup>®</sup> Plus Writing and the ACT<sup>®</sup> WorkKeys<sup>®</sup> Assessment System in the Spring

#### ACT Aspire™ Early High School

ACT Aspire assesses student readiness in English, mathematics, reading, science, and writing.



#### The ACT<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> WorkKeys<sup>®</sup>

ACT WorkKeys<sup>®</sup> is an applied skills assessment system which measures Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information.

#### How are the test results used?

All students will be administered all of these assessments except for the 1% of students with significant cognitive disabilities who will be assessed with an alternate assessment. This system of assessments will allow for growth to be measured throughout a student's high school career. DPI will also use The ACT<sup>®</sup> 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 a total test composite. Under standard conditions or with ACT-approved accommodations, scores earned on the ACT can be used by students for college enrollment, scholarships, and NCAA eligibility requirements.

- Students can earn National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC) that are recognized nationally by businesses and industries. National Career Readiness Certificates are earned at four different levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum depending on a student's performance on the three tests. These certificates are earned under standard conditions or with ACT approved accommodations.
- 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 collaboratively to ensure that the ACT assessments measure what students have learned through our adopted standards. If Wisconsin students are taught with the rigor and complexity as required by the Common Core, they will be well prepared to be successful with the ACT assessments.

#### **What are the Common Core State Standards?**

Developed voluntarily and cooperatively by 48 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia, the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) offer schools, teachers, students and parents clear, understandable, and consistent standards in English language arts and mathematics. The CCSS defines the knowledge and skills students should take away from their K-12 schooling to be successfully prepared for postsecondary and career opportunities. More than 40 states have adopted the Common Core State Standards.

#### **More Information**

For more information about the ACT High School Assessments, contact the Office of Student Assessment at [osamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:osamail@dpi.wi.gov)

