

ACT Update: Reprioritization of Planned 2020 Enhancements (November 18, 2020)

In response to our educator partner recommendations over the years, ACT put into place ambitious plans to improve testing experiences. ACT set a rollout date of September 2020 for these enhancements which included:

Online Testing Option for National Testing Dates: Our many state and district clients have demonstrated the effectiveness of online testing for years, and with expanded access to computer labs, it is the next logical step for National Testing. Furthermore, during this move to an online environment, additional features were planned, two of which require online testing.

1. **48 Score Reports:** Most importantly, students have asked that ACT return scores faster so that they may make important decisions, including retesting, college and scholarship applications.
2. **Section Retesting:** Students also like the idea of being able to sit for individual section retests compared to having to take the entire test again. Online testing allows for this capability, is supported by the 48 Score Reports, and leads to the final planned enhancement, Superscore.
3. **Superscore Reports:** Many Higher Education and Scholarship granting organizations already calculate superscores manually, and ACT wants to make this analysis easier by providing new superscore reports as a standard feature.

Why did ACT delay the 2020 Enhancements? The featured enhancements were planned and on track for Fall 2020. Unfortunately, the global pandemic hit during the spring testing season which forced ACT to rethink and reprioritize all plans.

How to safely serve the most? As our first priority is to safely serve students with the opportunity to test, and knowing most school computer labs are not currently configured to the CDC's recommended social distancing guidelines, ACT made the decision to stay with paper-based testing only for National Test Dates at this time, as it allows schools to use extra classrooms to safely accommodate as many students as possible.

Furthermore, ACT made the decision to allocate additional resources toward creating and piloting a **Remote Proctoring** approach for testing. That development is underway. We believe these are the right priorities until we see ourselves clear of this pandemic.

What has been pushed to 2021 (assuming the pandemic wanes)? Unfortunately, these changes in priorities impact National online testing, and as 48 Hour Score Reports and Section retesting have online testing interdependencies, it requires that they be pushed back to 2021.

However, ACT continues to prioritize **Superscoring**, and barring any other disruptions, ACT plans the release of Superscoring prior to the other National testing enhancements. As for a release date, unfortunately, we are not able to announce this until we complete some additional technical aspects over the next few weeks.

We are sorry about this situation and appreciate your understanding in this fluid environment as together, we support as many students as we can with the next steps of their educational lives. Thank you.