



## ACT Information for Parents

### What is the ACT?

- The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing.
- The ACT plus Writing includes the four subject area tests plus a 40-minute [writing test](#).
- ACT results are accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the US.
- The ACT is not an aptitude or an IQ test. The test questions on the ACT are directly related to what students have learned in their high school courses in English, mathematics, reading, and science.

### Why take the ACT?

- The ACT is a great opportunity for students to plan for their future. In addition to the tests, the ACT also provides a unique Interest Inventory and a Student Profile Section. By responding to these sections, students are provided a profile of their work in high school and their career to college choices.
- The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) policy states that students who meet the college ready benchmarks with a minimum score of 18 in English and 22 in mathematics will be placed in credit bearing courses. These students will not be required to take remedial courses in post-secondary education. NSHE remedial policies can be found in the Board of Regents Handbook, Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 1 (Revision 266 [06/15], Page 2).
- Participation in the ACT plus Writing exam is a state of Nevada graduation requirement and is administered to all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- There is no cost to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in the Clark County School District to participate in this exam.
- The ACT helps colleges find students. By taking the ACT, students make themselves visible to colleges and scholarship agencies.
- Students choose which college(s), up to four, receive their scores.



### How do students prepare for the ACT?

- The tests are based on four key domains: Core Academic Skills, Cross-Cutting Capabilities, Behavioral Skills, and Education and Career Navigation Skills. Attending class every day helps students prepare for the ACT, in addition to taking rigorous courses (i.e., Advanced Placement [AP], Career & Technical Education [CTE]). See your child's school counselor for appropriately challenging coursework that will support your child's performance on the ACT.
- Taking challenging courses is the best way to prepare, but ACT also offers a number of [test preparation options](#) including free online practice tests, testing tips for each subject area tested, and the free student booklet *Preparing for the ACT*.

Reference: ACT. "The ACT Help and FAQs." ACT.org. <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/help.html#general>.