

Attachment A

Florida Pre-College Entrance Examination Program 2017-18 Frequently Asked Questions

The Florida Legislature has allocated funds to support the administration of the PSAT/NMSQT or PreACT pre-college entrance examinations to grade 10 students in fall 2017. The purpose of this Frequently Asked Questions document is to provide additional information based on questions received from districts.

For more information about these tests, please visit the appropriate vendor's website at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10> (PSAT/NMSQT) and <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/preact.html> (PreACT).

1. Are all students required to take one of the pre-college entrance examinations?

No, but schools should encourage all grade 10 students to participate.

2. Are there testing accommodations for students with disabilities?

Testing accommodations included on a student's individual educational plan (IEP) or Section 504 plan must be provided if they are allowable under the test publisher's guidelines.

For more information about providing accommodations for each test, you may contact the College Board or ACT.

3. Are private school or home education students eligible to participate in the Pre-College Entrance Examination Program?

No. The law provides funding for Florida public school students only. Since private school and home education students are not enrolled in the public school system, they are not eligible to participate using state funds.

4. May students at Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities participate in the Pre-College Entrance Examination Program?

Yes. The law states that each public high school, including alternative sites and Department of Juvenile Justice centers, shall provide for the administration of a pre-college entrance examination to enrolled grade 10 students.

5. Are schools required to notify parents of the opportunity to exempt their child from Pre-College Entrance Examination testing?

Yes. The law is specific on this point and requires that a written notice be provided to each parent that must include the opportunity to exempt his or her child from taking the district's selected pre-college entrance examination.

6. Will the department provide a standard letter to parents/guardians for all schools to use?

No. Each district is responsible for determining the method by which it will inform parents of this opportunity. The written notice should describe the purpose and benefits of the Pre-College Entrance Examination Program and may include the following information:

- Grade 10 pre-college testing is an indicator of performance on the SAT or ACT.
- The PSAT/NMSQT includes reading, writing and language and mathematics components that focus on the knowledge and skills that are most essential for college and career readiness and success; it is also used as a diagnostic tool to measure and follow student performance and pinpoint areas for development.
- The PreACT includes four curriculum-based achievement tests: English, mathematics, reading and science, along with other components that provide a way to link academic performance to educational and career planning, including the new STEM score combining math and science.
- The program can help identify each student's potential for academic success at the postsecondary level.
- Test results provide high school guidance counselors with information to help identify students who may be ready to enroll and be successful in Advanced Placement and other college preparatory courses, or identify students who may need additional instruction to do so.

- Interest-Career Fit information provided with PreACT results compare students' selected major/career field selections with their Interest Inventory results to help evaluate and guide career planning choices.
- Test results can open up discussion about future education plans that may not have been considered otherwise.

7. How will districts inform the department of their test selection and projected total enrollment of grade 10 students to be tested?

The Florida Pre-College Entrance Examination Program Selection Form (Attachment B) requires each district to identify its test selection and the projected fall 2017 enrollment of grade 10 students in the district.

In addition, we request that each district complete and submit this form containing the following four data elements in the specified columns:

1. School Name and School Number;
2. College Entrance Examination Board Code;
3. Physical School Addresses; and
4. Estimated Number of Participating Grade 10 Students.

Districts should submit their selection form (Attachment B) no later than **Friday, August 11, 2017**, to teri.williams@fldoe.org.

8. Does filling out Attachment B mean that I have ordered my materials?

No. Attachment B is a form that provides an estimate that is used by the department for procurement purposes.

9. How do districts order materials from ACT or the College Board?

Once districts have submitted their test selection forms to the department, ACT or the College Board will send information to districts regarding ordering materials. **Districts should not order materials prior to receiving this communication.**

If there are any questions about ordering materials, please contact the appropriate person below:

PreACT – Cari Lousch, ACT, (405) 747-6159 or cari.lousch@act.org

PSAT/NMSQT – Cindy Pelle, The College Board, (954) 874-4345 or cpelle@collegeboard.org

10. Will the state pay for the administration of a pre-college entrance examination for students enrolled in grade levels other than grade 10?

No. Schools will be responsible for fees associated with the administration of a Pre-College Entrance Examination to students in grade levels other than grade 10 and to **any grade 10 students who grid their grade level improperly**. The testing organizations will track the number of students who are actually tested and will invoice the department accordingly. **Please be aware that, while schools are responsible for the cost of testing students who are not in grade 10, districts are responsible for cooperating with the testing organizations to verify that student counts at each school are accurate.**

11. Is there a “percent tested” requirement for grade 10 students?

No; however, the intent of the law is to ensure that as many students as possible are given access to the pre-college entrance examination program and the related services that will be provided. The department will publish participation rates by school and district.

12. If a student takes a pre-college entrance examination in grade 10, may he/she participate in the National Merit Scholarship program?

Yes; however, in order to enter the National Merit Scholarship Corporation competition, the student must take the PSAT/NMSQT again in grade 11.

- 13. If a district offers the PSAT/NMSQT, is every school in that district required to administer the exam on the same day?** No; but it is recommended to administer the exam on the primary test date. If a school chooses the alternate test date and is not able to give the exam on that date for any reason, the school would not have another day to administer the exam.
- 14. Can a school that offers the PSAT/NMSQT on the primary test date offer the test again on the alternate date for any students who missed the first test?** No; if a student misses the test, he/she must test at a school that is administering the test on the alternate date.