

Schools are required to test and submit results to SEAA for scholarship recipients in grades 3 and higher, as in previous years. The 2023 Appropriations Act (the “Act”) required scholarship recipients in 3rd, 8th, and 11th grade to take specific tests. Under the Act, an amount equal to the cost for testing for 3rd, 8th, and 11th grades is to be paid for by State program funds.

As of this time, please be aware that the ACT is the required test for scholarship recipients in 11th grade.

For 3rd and 8th graders, the Department of Public Instruction (“DPI”) has been charged with designating the nationally standardized test for grades 3 and 8 (“Designated Test”). At this time a Designated Test has not been selected by DPI for 3rd and 8th grade students. While the standardized testing requirements will still apply for these grades, there is no Designated Test for the 2024-25 school year and therefore no reimbursement will be provided.

PAYING FOR THE 11th GRADE TEST (ACT): 2024-25

What is covered: The K12 Programs at SEAA will pay for the cost of the ACT test for 11th grade Opportunity Scholarship students. ESA+ students are required to take the ACT, but SEAA is not authorized to pay those costs. Other costs, such as test administration expenses, are not covered.

With or without essay: SEAA will reimburse the cost of the ACT *without* essay. Schools or parents may choose to take the ACT with essay, and the difference in cost will be the responsibility of the school or parent.

Students who re-test: SEAA will reimburse the cost of the ACT one time per scholarship recipient. Additional test costs will be the responsibility of the school or parent.

Schools that are part of a larger “district”: Schools that organizationally function as a district and administer testing through a central location can be reimbursed via that central location’s administration. The certification of 11th grade students at each school will determine the reimbursement amount. ACT District Testing Details can be found [here](#).

Cost: The cost of the ACT without essay for 2024-25 is \$69.00 for individual students, and \$55.50 for students whose school participates in a [district test administration](#). By March 1, 2025, schools should self-identify to SEAA if they function as a district and thus incur a cost of \$55.50 per student. The K12 Programs at SEAA will reimburse the appropriate amount per test.

How the number of tests is determined: K12 staff will review the number of 11th grade students certified as enrolled at the nonpublic school, as of March 1, for the spring of 2025. SEAA will issue payment to the school for that number of students.

Students who do not test: Refer to the existing [guidance](#) regarding students who are absent or whose parents do not cooperate with the testing requirement.

Online vs. paper / pencil tests: Either is acceptable.



North Carolina State Education
Assistance Authority

K12 Scholarship Programs 2024-25 Standardized Testing Guidance

Location: The ACT test must be taken at a site approved for ACT testing. The ACT Test Center locator is [here](#). K12 Direct Payment Schools may be an approved ACT testing site and can administer the test themselves, or, alternatively, send students to another ACT testing site.

Students who register independently for the ACT: SEAA will issue payment for the cost of the test to the school. The school is authorized to reimburse the parent for the cost of the ACT. In addition, note that ACT offers a Prebilled Registration Voucher for schools to pay the fees for a student or group of students. A [link to this information](#) is offered as a courtesy to schools. Schools are not required to use this process.

Communications to parents of 11th grade students: The K12 Programs at SEAA will send information to parents of 11th grade scholarship students by January 2025 that will explain the changes to the required testing for the 2024-25 school year. SEAA will also provide a parent FAQ regarding the ACT and encourage them to discuss testing plans with their school.

Fall vs. spring: Nonpublic schools or parents of 11th graders can choose to take the ACT in the fall of 2024 or the spring of 2025. Note however, that reimbursement from the K12 Programs at SEAA for the cost of the tests will be based on the spring 2025 certified enrollment as of March 1, 2025.

Test dates: See the [ACT Test Dates Schedule](#).

Submitting results to SEAA: As is currently required for all standardized testing, schools will need to submit results of the 11th grade students' ACT test scores to SEAA. Test results are due by July 15.

Other tests for 11th graders: Besides the ACT, no other standardized test is required for 11th grade students, however, schools are not prohibited from administering another standardized test of their choice.

What if the scholarship student has a disability that impacts the choice of test?

The nonpublic school should have documentation to support the educationally appropriate testing choice for the student with a disability and should keep the documentation of the test selection on file pending and subject to review by SEAA.

Could there be changes to the law during the 2024-25 school year?

SEAA does not anticipate changes for the 2024-2025 school year. In the event that testing requirements change during the school year, SEAA will provide additional guidance and direction to schools at that time.

General testing questions?

Follow current K12 Program testing guidelines available [here](#).