

Exemptions from Participation in the State-Funded ACT/SAT (College Readiness) Assessments

State law requires that Ohio schools administer the ACT or SAT to all students in grade 11 in the spring of the school year. However, some students are exempt from this requirement under Ohio law. The exemptions include:

1. Any student who presents evidence to the district or school of having already scored remediation free on English language arts and math on the ACT or SAT.
2. Any student with significant cognitive disabilities to whom the state Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities is administered.
3. Any student determined to have a disability that includes an intellectual disability.
 - A student with an intellectual disability has significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.
 - (a) Significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning refers to an intelligence quotient of 70 or below as determined through a measure of cognitive functioning administered by a school psychologist or a qualified psychologist using a test designed for individual administration. Based on a standard error of measurement and clinical judgment, a child may be determined to have significant subaverage general intellectual functioning with an intelligence quotient not to exceed 75.
 - (b) Deficits in adaptive behavior means deficits in two or more applicable skill areas occurring within the context of the child's environments and typical of the child's chronological age peers.
 - Intellectual disability in the context of exemptions from the ACT or SAT participation requirement does not mean that the student must be identified with the category of intellectual disability. This exemption applies to any student who meets the criteria for having an intellectual disability regardless of disability category in which the student is identified.
4. Any limited English proficient student who has been enrolled in United States schools for less than two school years and for whom no appropriate accommodations are available.
 - EL students who cannot take the test meaningfully without a language translation, even with the use of other allowable accommodations for ELs, if available, are ELs for whom no appropriate accommodations are available.

No district or school shall prohibit any student described in this guidance from taking the selected assessment. Schools should register all students who will participate in the college readiness assessments during the registration window as well as any other students for whom there may be an exemption but parents or the student elect to participate in the test.

The Department emphasizes that the exemptions do not remove the requirement that schools request accommodations for all students with disabilities who will participate in the ACT/SAT testing in a timely and complete manner. If it is unknown as to whether a student who meets one of the above exemptions will participate in the test, districts must complete the request for accommodations in the same timely and complete manner as for any other student with a disability.

The Department recommends that districts document whether a student who meets one of the above exemptions will or will not participate in the college readiness assessment from parents or guardians, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of majority, from the student.

Additional information on EMIS coding related to exemptions from participation in the state-funded ACT/SAT will be forthcoming.

Questions regarding the content of this guidance may be sent to:
statetests@education.ohio.gov

Please refer to Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.0712 and Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3301-51-01(B)(10)(d)(ii).