

It is the Time of Year for South Carolina Students to Shine

Testing Changes for Students in Grades 3-8

This Spring all students in grades 3 through 8 will take Aspire in Writing, English, Reading, and Mathematics. The Aspire Science assessment is optional. Points are not deducted for incorrect answers, so students are not “penalized” for guessing or answering incorrectly. Therefore, it is in your student’s best interest to answer as many questions as possible. All assessments will be given using paper and pencil. The test is also timed. In writing, students will have 30 minutes to write a story, essay, narrative, or persuasive essay, depending upon the grade level.



ACT® Aspire™

Grades 3-8	Test Date	Time Limit
Writing	Tuesday, April 28	30 minutes - grades 3-8
English	Tuesday, April 28	30 minutes - grades 3-5 35 minutes - grades 6-8
Reading	Wednesday, April 29	60 minutes - grades 3-8
Mathematics	Thursday, April 30	55 minutes - grades 3-5 60 minutes - grades 6 & 7 65 minutes - grade 8
Science (optional)	District option	55 minutes - grades 3-8
Make-up testing will take place through May 13.		

Why is SC giving ACT® Aspire™?

South Carolina wants to ensure that all students graduate from public schools in our state prepared for college and careers in the 21st century. The ACT Aspire® was selected through a competitive bid process as the assessment to give parents, families, and teachers information to know if each student is on the path to being college and career ready. All SC school districts are giving ACT Aspire®, and the test is linked to the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards. The assessment should give teachers a good idea of who, among their students, needs extra help in what areas. The assessment should also give parents and families information to know if their child is on track for high school and ultimately, on the path to being prepared for college and careers. Beginning this year, 11th grade students in SC are taking The ACT, a college- and career-readiness assessment that is a commonly accepted college entrance exam. ACT Aspire® and The ACT are closely linked in order to provide parents with information to understand if their child is headed down a pathway leading to academic success.

SCPASS: Students in Grades 4-8

All students in grades 4 through 8 will also take the SC Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) in Science and Social Studies on the following dates. These tests are untimed.

SCPASS (Palmetto Assessment of State Standards)

Grades 4-8	Paper/Pencil Administration	Online Administration
Science	Thursday, May 7	May 7 - May 22
Social Studies	Friday, May 8	May 8 - May 22
Make-up Testing	Through May 15	

What can I do to help my child do his or her best?

- Use positive, upbeat communication when talking to your child about the test.
- Encourage your child to do his or her best
- Get your child to school on time
- Make sure your child gets plenty of rest the night before the test.
- Encourage your child to follow directions and ask questions.
- Advise your child not to spend too much time on any one question and answer every question.
- Advise your child to go back and review answers.

Additional Resources about ACT[®] Aspire[™]

For Parents and Families:

www.discoveractaspire.org

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/pi/act/>